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21 April 1983

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No. 2741

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ARMENIAN DELEGATION VISITS MINISTER OF ISLAMIC GUIDANCE

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 6



[Text] On Thursday, 20 January, at 1030 an Armenian delegation representing the three Armenian Dioceses in Iran paid a visit to the minister of Islamic guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat Ol-Eslam Khatami. The members of the delegation were: The most reverend Archbishop Aardag Manukian, the Armenian primate in Tehran; Hrayr Khalatian, the Armenian representative for the northern Armenian community; Levon Aharonian, chairman of the Diocesan Council in Tehran; Vagrik Manukian, member of the Diocesan Council in Tehran; Reverend Bagrad Melkonian, acting primate of the Azaraayjan Armenian Prelature; Vardan Hovhannesian, member of the Azarbayjan

Diocesan Council; Reverend Hamazasb Arakelian, representative of the Iran-Indian Armenian Diocese; and Set Yesaian and George Megerdichian, members of the Iran-Indian Armenian Diocesan Council.

At the beginning of the meeting Khalatian wished success for the Muslim and Christian soldiers of Iran who are fighting to drive the invading enemy out of the country and presented the members of the delegation to the minister.

Then, the spokesman for the delegation, His Beatitude Archbishop Manukian, said: "First of all we would like to express our gratitude for this visit and then congratulate Hojjat Ol-Eslam Khatami for his new post, wishing him success in his work. The Armenian and Muslim brothers of this country have lived in unity side by side all through centuries, and we are confident that the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, which maintains ties with the minorities, will further strengthen our unity. From the start of the revolution the Armenian community has been on the side of its Muslim brothers, and today also it continues to participate in the revolution. We see our existence guaranteed by the Iranian Constitution in religious, educational and cultural fields. From the religious point of view we have no problems. There are difficulties concerning educational matters, However, we hope that through contacts with the proper ministries and establishments these difficulties will be overcome.

One of the aims of the Armenian delegation, which represents the three Armenian dioceses in Iran, in having this meeting is to further strengthen our relations with the Islamic Guidance Ministry. To this end, since our prelatures and diocesan councils are in charge of our spiritual, cultural and educational affairs, whenever a problem concerning the Armenians of Iran arises we would like this ministry to first consider the three spiritual centers [Prelatures] and the diocesan councils, which are directly elected by the people. For these centers also act as intermediaries between the people and the state."

His Beatitude then referred to the 11 February [Anniversary of the Iranian Revolution] celebrations and said: "Months ago the three Armenian prelatures in Iran led by their spiritual leaders set to work for the 11 February celebrations and also established a central committee. The related department of the Islamic Guidance ministry has already been informed of these activities."

His Beatitude then referred to various difficulties created regarding the Armenian publications and said that our associations have had their organs. Undoubtedly, he added, permission for such publications comes under the jurisdiction of the ministry and we have no intention to intervene.

His Beatitude then referred to the question of pilgrimages and visiting the holy places. He added that our people have a strong desire for such pilgrimages and that it will be a good move if the authorities respond positively to our requests.

Concluding his speech, which was translated by Levon Aharonian, his beatitude again expressed thanks and stressed that the Armenians will always stand by the side of the Muslim people of Iran.

Following this speech the minister of Islamic Guidance, Hojjat Ol-Eslam Khatami, said: "I am very glad to see you here today. I am glad in particular by seeing Mr Khalatian, with whom I served at the parliament for a long time." The Minister went on to say: "Fortunately our contacts have been fraternal and friendly, and on the eve of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution we consider your visit as a good omen. We hope that on the eve of the fourth anniversary of this revolution the unity of our people, the unity of different classes, races and religions will be further strengthened. God willing, let next year be the year of defeat of the enemies of our people and revolution, who are the enemies of both Christians and Muslims. The Christians and Muslims have for years been oppressed by the superpowers." Khatami then underlined the values of the Islamic Revolution and said: "We do not aim at the separation of Christians, Muslims and other faiths from each other. Our aim is to provide them a more comfortable life under Islamic rule."

In another part of his speech, Khatami said: "At home we must concentrate all our attention and thoughts toward the strengthening of our human relations and toward the reinforcement of our Constitution and other laws. We have to do this to assure all classes in the country that by accepting the general standards and the Constitution of this regime they can freely and without second thought live within the limits of their beliefs and in accordance with their traditions. Let us hope that the arrival of that day will not take too long."

[You will be able to read the summary of Khatami's speech in our next issues.]

Following Khatami's speech his beatitude expressed thanks for the reception and the encouraging words of the minister. He said: "We, spiritual leaders in particular, have a specific responsibility in the strengthening of religion and prevention of materialism. The number one aim of religion is to further strengthen the religious faith in every individual. We will also work for the preservation of our culture and traditions in particular, to prevent foreign customs and cultures from causing the character of any person or religion "to degenerate."

Concluding, his beatitude wished success for the Iranian forces in their struggle against invading Iraqis. He noted that the Armenian community is ready to participate in all efforts for the prosperity of Iran.

ARTICLE CALLS FOR REWRITING EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE HISTORY

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2855, 28 Feb 83 pp 12-13

/Article by Jamil 'Arif/

/Text/ Why don't historians, those university professors who write history, and others involved in both Egypt and Sudan use the Joint Commission for rewriting the history of Egyptian-Sudanese relations from our nationalist point of view? And not from the eyes of foreign historians?

It is the integrity of history...it is out of support for the unification of the two peoples of the Nile Valley that we have made a body like this Joint Commission, and that we have christened it "The Commission for Rewriting the History of the Nile Valley", so that we may purge the history of Egyptian-Sudanese relations of every flaw, deliberate alteration, and twisting of truths which foreign historians used to advance the policy of "divide and conquer"--one of the means of colonialism which was used to strike at the unity of the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

That is merely a proposal I imagined that may very well spring to the minds of those authorities both in Khartoum and in Cairo for implementing the unification treaty between the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

The one thing that is certain is that an acceptable nationalist history beneficial to Egyptian-Sudanese relations has not yet, up to today, been written or recorded.

True, there have been some who participated in the most recent stage of those relations--that is, the declaration of Sudan's independence--who have spoken about...

Also true is that there have been some who have written their political memoirs, such as Major General Muhammad Naguib, the first president of the Republic after the July 1952 Revolution, and Ambassador Dhu al-Fiqar Sabri, who was Egypt's representative on the Governing Commission before Sudan's independence.

However these memoirs or political statements are insufficient to unveil the secrets of the history of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

I imagine the task in front of the Commission revising the history of these relations to be nationalist obligation, it is to listen to the living witnesses, both Egyptian and Sudanese, who participated in making the political events, and to collect together every possible Egyptian or Sudanese historical document which Egyptian or Sudanese politicians may have left behind--all to be utilized in the revision of the proper, unadulterated, unfalsified, nationalist history of the relations of the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

I should imagine something like the Commission undertaking the collection of these historical documents which would reveal Britain's colonialist ambitions in Sudan.

That they were old ambitions beginning from the Berlin Conference of 1840 (that was the conference where the European states met to divide up their spheres of influence in the African continent)...That is, almost 22 years before the English occupation of Egypt!

These old historical documents may address what the then Ethiopian Emperor Theodore had to say when he wrote a letter to the kings of the European states that were participating in that conference in which he asked for a redrawing of the map so Ethiopia's borders would be extended northwards and eastwards to embrace Harrar and Eritrea, and even most of the region where Khartoum is situated.

It is the opinion of some historians and researchers that Muhammad Ali the Great and the Khedive Ismail both fell into the snare which the European countries prepared for them by asking for the assistance of a group of foreign officers (most of whom were English, French, or American officers) to lead their military campaigns which extended to the sources of the Nile in the heart of Africa.

These foreign officers were not just military leaders, but they were also the vanguard who prepared the way for the apportionment of the colonialist spheres of influence into the heart of Africa.

I could also imagine that a commission like this one could re-study and reevaluate the Mahdist revolution as an armed populist upheaval, since what is known about this revolution was seen through English or foreign eyes.

The truth is that some Sudanese historians have tried writing the history of that revolution from the point of view of the Sudanese nationalist--but that is not sufficient...

Sudan's history is replete with the near-legendary battles which broke out from that revolution. . . I recall that during one of my visits to Nigeria I stumbled upon a booklet issued by the British Colonial Office of those days which related the story of the Sudanese Lieutenant Muhammad Ribah.

Let's hear what the English themselves said in this booklet about that Sudanese officer. They wrote:

"The force consisted of about 4000 soldiers of Egyptian and Sudanese troops and was encamped in the Kordofan region when communications between this force and its commanders in Khartoum were cut off because of the Mahdist revolution. Muhammad Ribah at that time held the rank of First Lieutenant so that he suddenly became the commander of the force after all its senior officers were killed. The Sudanese officer decided to withdraw southwards with his Egyptian and Sudanese troops--and mules were carrying the artillery pieces and boxes of ammunition. Then he gave orders to withdraw his forces to the south.

"The march ended in the eastern districts of a lake which was known afterwards as Lake Chad in the lands of Nigeria."

The English account continues:

"The force settled down under the leadership of this officer who became known in the district stretching along the lake. The soldiers married local girls and the Sudanese officer acquired great influence in the region until he became known as Sultan Ribah.

"When the French came to occupy the Chad region the Tuareg tribes--which were known better by the name the tribes of the veiled men--rose in revolt in the south of the Libyan and Algerian desert to help the nationalists in their war against the French. The Sultan of Chad wrote to the Sudanese officer, Muhammad Ribah, asking him to help the Chadian insurgents. The officer did not delay and he quickly arose with his soldiers to fight the French...

"The pitched fighting lasted from 1882 until 1902 when the Sudanese officer was killed in one of the battles."

"The fighting continued in which Egyptian and Sudanese blood was mixed with the blood of the sons of Chad, Libya, and Algeria until 1904 when the French triumphed in this war against the insurgents."

During one of my tours in parts of Nigeria I visited the region in which the force of Egyptian-Sudanese troops had settled under the command of Lieutenant Ribah.

The final vestigial traces of the sons and grandsons of these Egyptian and Sudanese soldiers: Their faces are reddish-brown.

This is like the vestigial traces of the Upper Egyptians found in the two regions of Sinai and Difu in the south of Egypt.

It is a legendary vestige acknowledged even by the English. We should work to document this and record it for the sake of history's integrity.

We should recognize that the people of Sudan acknowledge more from Egypt than what our Egyptian youth acknowledge from Sudan. And that is disgraceful.

I should imagine that we have shortcomings in the materials which we use to teach our children in history classes in the studies of the continuing rela-

tions which stretch back to deepest history and which bind together the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

There can be no doubt that the establishment of the likes of this Commission for Rewriting the history of these relations will greatly benefit the writing of our proper history in our own nationalist point of view--unaltered and unfalsified.

We should make it as easy as possible for the Joint Commission to complete its historical studies so there will be a basis to prepare the programs of historical materials which will be used to teach school children in Egypt and Sudan.

This is our obligation for the sake of the integrity of history until our youth and our sons know everything about the relations and ties which have stretched back into the deep history between Egypt and Sudan.

9587

CSO: 4504/230

ARTICLE EXAMINES PROBLEMS IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by Faruq 'Abd-al-Majid: "Coordination Nonexistent Among Pharmaceutical Companies; Costs Rose, Losses Followed"]

[Text] It is expected that the value of medicinal drugs consumed this year will amount to 500 million pounds. The public sector furnishes about 80 percent of these medicinal drugs. Because Egyptian medicines are inexpensive, instances of smuggling medicinal drugs [manufactured in Egypt] have grown. Therefore, the Ministry of Health is currently considering legislation that would make smuggling medicinal drugs manufactured in Egypt a crime. There is another aspect to this problem: despite the fact that demand for Egyptian medicinal drugs is strong even in Arab markets, pharmaceutical companies are losing money. Why?

Dr Midhat al-Qattan, president of the technical secretariat for the pharmaceutical sector says that the most important reason why pharmaceutical companies are losing money is the 3 percent [sic?] increase in the rate of exchange of free currencies. Budgets for pharmaceutical sector companies drafted for planning purposes were based on importing [medicinal drugs] at promotional prices. Prices for raw materials and production requirements rose between 50 and 200 percent. Prices for finished medicinal drugs and for baby formula also rose between 25 and 125 percent. At the same time, sale prices to the public remained unchanged since this is part of the state's policy to which the pharmaceutical sector adheres. Also investments designated for companies of this sector were not commensurate with actual needs, and this delayed the implementation of some projects. This delay and the increase in world prices helped increase costs during the periods when these investments were being made. And this caused a large portion of the money to remain idle and not to be invested.

Dr al-Qattan adds that inventories on hand make up a large percentage of the total value of the assets claimed by companies of this sector. Thus a large part of the sources of financing is wasted because medicinal drugs are by nature commodities whose production requires numerous raw materials. A shortage in any substance affects the other raw materials that go into making a product. Production is also affected by] delays in opening bank accounts and in shipping. It is [therefore] necessary to provide a strategic reserve for emergencies. One of the most important problems facing this sector also is the increase in bank interest rates from 8 to 14 percent. Many companies had to overdraw on their bank accounts to meet increased consumption of medicines. It is expected that

consumption of medicinal drugs this year will amount to 500 million pounds, compared with 407 million pounds last year. Average [annual] per capita consumption of medicinal drugs is a little over 10 pounds. Companies absorb losses incurred by importing baby formula. Last year these losses amounted to 22 million pounds. [Pharmaceutical companies] also support the National Authority for Pharmaceutical Supervision and Research by contributing 1 percent of their revenues from commercial activities.

Accountant Muhammad al-Qadi, president of the Egyptian Company for Pharmaceutical Sales, the only company responsible for the sale and import of medicinal drugs in Egypt, says, "The company has been afflicted by losses one year after the other. These losses amounted to 22 million pounds. Then losses fell to 980,000 pounds. The high price of the dollar is one of the most important reasons for these losses. World prices and customs fees are also high. Therefore, we are asking that imported medicinal drugs and baby formula be exempted from customs fees. We are asking that pharmaceutical companies be treated like food supply companies regarding the rate of exchange and not on the basis of affecting the prices of some medicines in relation to local and imported medicines. We are asking that pharmaceutical companies be financed by the Central Bank and that the Ministry of Finance subsidize public sector pharmaceutical companies with funds that equal the difference between import costs and the sale price [of a medicinal drug]."

Mr al-Qadi says that international pharmaceutical companies do not produce more than 50 medicinal and therapeutic preparations, whereas public sector companies in Egypt produce more than 1,500. This impedes the process of making all medicinal preparations available simultaneously and it causes wear and tear on the machinery.

Mr al-Qadi says that cost accountants estimate that raw materials account for 65 percent of costs in the pharmaceutical industry. This explains the effect the price of raw materials has on the cost of medicinal drugs. There is also a lack of full coordination among local pharmaceutical companies which do not specialize in producing certain medicinal drugs. Instead, these companies compete with each other since a single medicinal preparation is produced by almost more than three companies.

8592

CSO: 4504/287

NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Mar 83 p 1

[Article: "Bill Amending Construction Law Approved by Council of Ministers; Appeals and Emergency Committees Abolished To Assert the Right of the Administrative Agency To Put an End to Violations; Property Buyers Are Subject to Penalty even if They Claim Ignorance That Construction Was Completed without a Permit"]

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, which was chaired by Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din, the Council of Ministers passed a bill amending the provisions of the Construction Control and Regulation Act. The Council of Ministers decided to refer the bill to the cabinet's legislative committee which will redraft it in the light of comments that were made by the ministers. The bill will be redrafted before it is referred to the People's Assembly for debate. Because of its importance and the effect violations of that law have on citizens, [it is hoped that] the law will be issued expeditiously.

The most important aim of the amendment is to close the gaps that exist in the present law. Some people have taken advantage of these gaps, and that has caused the tragedies of high-rise buildings collapsing. Therefore, the amendment stipulated and stressed the right of an administrative agency to use administrative measures to suspend work that is being done in violation of the law and to take possession during the period of suspension of the tools and equipment that were in use. The amendment to the law stressed the right of the administrative agency to issue an administrative decree removing or correcting construction work that was done in violation of the law.

The bill defined how this would be done by cutting down on the steps that would be taken to issue these decisions. It abolished appeals and emergency committees by considering the authorized administrative agency, which oversees the enforcement of construction laws, as more capable of making the decision which is required when a violation occurs. Such a decision would not depend on any other measure, and the person against whom the decision is made would have the right to take his case to administrative court.

The bill also introduced a stipulation making the confiscation of buildings that are built without a permit mandatory. Such a judgment would be rendered against the owner or against anyone who acquires ownership of the property after the owner through purchase or inheritance, even if that buyer or heir claimed

ignorance of the fact that the building was built without a permit. Authorized local agencies are to demolish the confiscated buildings if they are unsafe and hazardous to lives and property.

Mr Safwat al-Sharif, minister of state for information said, "The Council of Ministers decided to debate the bill amending the construction law during this meeting because of the importance of the matter. The council made that decision in light of the debate that took place during its last meeting when a decision was made to form a committee headed by the prime minister and consisting of the authorized ministers. This committee met more than once in 1 week to discuss legislation in this regard, particularly since this is a matter of considerable interest to President Husni Mubarak. The president had met with the committee several times during that period.

"The committee considered the statutes that regulate the construction and expansion of buildings, the addition of floors to those buildings and the demolition of those buildings. The committee found some gaps in those regulatory regulations. Some people had taken advantage of them for fraudulent purposes, and it is this that caused the phenomenon of building without a permit or violating construction provisions or permit conditions to become widespread. In some cases the violations were so immense that some people used materials that did not meet specifications and others did not follow the technical principles of construction.

The bill affirmed the integration of the system of penalties for construction violations by merging the penalties set in Law No 2 for 1982 with the penalties set in Law No 106 for 1976 and by taking the following into account:

--A contractor who is in charge of construction or of the addition of floors to an existing building receives the same penalty as that which is set for the owner.

--Penalties for crimes that are committed with forethought or through gross negligence as a result of not following technical principles, using construction materials fraudulently or using materials that do not meet with specifications may no longer be suspended.

--In addition to the set penalties, it is mandatory that a judgment be rendered to remove, correct or complete construction violations.

--It is mandatory that buildings built without a permit be confiscated.

The minister of information added, "The bill introduced new stipulations to tighten controls on enforcement of the Construction Control and Regulation Act and its executive ordinance. The bill prohibits building without a permit, and it also prohibits violating construction provisions or permit conditions. It prohibits certain [transfer of] ownership measures to prevent fraud by selling one unit more than once, selling a unit for which a building permit has not yet been issued or selling a unit on land whose ownership has not been determined. There is a new stipulation in the bill that requires everyone who wants to build or make additions to a building, regardless of the kind or standard of that building and regardless of the identity of its owner, to place a sign in a visible spot on the construction site. That sign would carry the essential information that would be useful to anyone who wants to rent or own [any part of that building]. The information would also be useful to officials who have to enforce the provisions

of the construction laws. The most important information that should appear on this sign includes: the number of the building permit; the date it was issued; the kind and standard of construction; the number of floors allowed; the number of units intended; the number of units designated for lease and the number of units designated for ownership; the name of the owner; the name of the architect overseeing the construction; the name of the contractor who is carrying out the construction; and the name of the insurance company that is carrying the insurance policy during the period of construction. The bill also indicated that the minister of housing would issue a decree defining these data [that are to be on the sign] and setting the specifications for the sign. These data are also to be mentioned in advertising and in the media.

The bill also stipulated that it is the owner's and the contractor's responsibility to set up this sign with the information on it in a clearly visible place [at the construction site] and to keep it in its place throughout the period of construction. The same stipulation applies to those buildings that are under construction or that are being added to on the date the provisions of this law go into effect. Thus, violations can be easily discovered to protect lives and property and to protect people who do business with those violators either by leasing or buying property from them. The bill gives both the contractor and the owner a period of 30 days to set up this sign.

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OPPOSITION POLITICS IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, SALE OF LAND ANALYZED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 278, 21 Mar 83 pp 20-21

[Article: "Hot Issues in Egypt: Opposition Losing Ground and Jews Selling Land"]

[Text] Egyptian political circles and a considerable portion of public opinion in Egypt have been preoccupied this week with more than one hot issue. Foremost among these issues were, on the one hand, the elections that were held in both the journalists' and engineers' associations and the critical remarks that were made by Egyptian president Husni Mubarak about the PLO, on the other. In addition, there was the issue of Egypt's Jewish community owning a vast area of land in Ma'adi, a suburb near Cairo. Members of Egypt's Jewish community were selling parts of that land and leasing other parts.

Regarding the elections that were held in the journalists' and engineers' associations, it may be said at the outset that election results favored the ruling party. The political forces of the opposition lost to a certain extent in the Journalists' Association, and they lost to a large extent in the Engineers' Association. In the Journalists' Association the elections ended with the election of Salah Jalal president of the association for the second time. He won by three votes. Mr Jalal received 476 votes, and his opponent, Kamil Zahiri received 473.

Minutes after the election results were announced, Ahmad Farghali, a member of the association's board of directors and chairman of the vote tallying committee announced that there were three votes for Kamil Zahiri which had not been tallied. However, the request for a re-count was turned down, and it was stated in that regard that election results can be appealed only to the courts.

Nevertheless, journalists agreed that the elections process this year had not been tainted. They affirmed that the climate surrounding the elections had been democratic and that that fact was evident in the discussions that took place between the supporters of the president, [the candidate] who won, and supporters of the candidate who lost.

Supporters of Kamil Zahiri were calling for for "change." They were affirming the need to have that change begin in the association. A change in the association would be the beginning of change in society. They indicated in that regard that the lack of change meant approving of the September resolutions and of al-Sadat's administration.

Supporters of Salah Jalal emphasized that change could come about with the change in conditions and with a new climate. They said that the September resolutions were the end of an administration that is gone and will not return.

Salah Jalal thus won the elections, and a group of opposition journalists joined him on the association's new board of directors. Aminah Shafiq, Muhammad Salmawi and Mahmud 'Awad are among those journalists.

After that the general assembly of the Journalists' Association was convened and at the end of that meeting a statement was issued. The statement affirmed the association's concern for the importance of having democratic dialogue and debate prevail in society. The association also affirmed its urgent wish that a complete change be carried out in press organizations. It stressed that replacing individuals with other individuals would not be satisfactory. Instead, it is policies that are to be replaced.

The statement indicated in this regard that publicly owned press organizations, which were nationalized in May 1960, were still pursuing the same publication course they had pursued before the events of the fall of 1981. They publish only one opinion: that of the government, the party and the ruler, and they take no note of other opinions.

The statement stated that that position was due to the fact that a minority of leaders of the press were in control and that they lacked the will and the spirit to change.

It is to be stated here that the text of the statement issued by the general assembly of the Egyptian Journalists' Association was turned over to all press organizations for publication, but none of the national newspapers published it.

'Uthman Wins

Although elections in the Journalists' Association did take place in a democratic climate--and different political forces did admit to that even though some did dispute the outcome--the situation was different in the elections that were held in the Engineers' Association.

'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman was elected president the second time despite the fact that he was and still is being attacked. 'Uthman was elected president despite the fact that charges are being leveled against him by opposition parties and political forces. Besides, his name was mentioned in more than one corruption suit. The most significant of these was the suit of the fugitive millionaire, the man who sold rotten poultry, Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy.

According to statements made by Egyptian opposition circles, there were several improprieties in the elections of the Engineers' Association. It was stated in that regard that in some committees the elections were held without verifying the identity of the voters. It was said that some supporters of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman were in the committees and that they violated the secret balloting. It was also stated that The Arab Contractors, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's company had prepared lists of its employees, of men in the armed forces and also of men in the ministries of irrigation and electricity. This made 'Uthman receive a large number of votes and win the election.

Despite these improprieties that were brought to light by parties and political forces of the opposition, there are those who point to another factor that led to the victory of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman. It is being said that 'Uthman was able to use his influence to leak news that the government was thinking about enacting a mandatory service law for engineers. That law would be applied to engineers upon their graduation.

Mandatory service means that an engineer who has just graduated would work for the government in accordance with government regulations and salaries. He would not be allowed to travel abroad or to work in private companies until he completes his mandatory period of service. 'Uthman's campaign was based on an absolute promise that he would fight a mandatory service bill. There used to be such a law, but it was repealed in the past few years. Before the elections were held, 'Uthman announced that the government had changed its mind about [this proposed bill] in a manner that suggested that 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman had been behind that change.

'Uthman also set up his campaign on a set of promises, among which was one that intimated again that projects such as the engineers' housing project [would be supported]. Egyptian newspapers also published news before the elections of the Engineers' Association were held which indicated that the engineer's bank had not renewed the insurance policy of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. That policy had been taken out during 'Uthman's days, and opposition parties and forces had used that matter to attack him.

At any rate political circles regarded the election of 'Uthman president of the association and the fact that other national candidates were not elected an indication of the fact that despite everything else, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman was still a powerful man.

Criticizing the Organization

Before going to New Delhi to attend the Summit Conference for Non-Aligned Countries, President Husni Mubarak made remarks that were very critical of the PLO. This was after the Palestinian National Council had met in Algeria and issued resolutions and recommendations. President Mubarak reiterated his critical remarks upon his return from the Non-Aligned Summit Conference.

The PLO had called upon Egypt to abrogate the Camp David Accords, and President Mubarak had said that Egypt would never abandon these accords because doing so would hurt Egypt and would hurt the Arab world and the Palestinian cause. The Egyptian president also indicated that the Camp David Accords had enabled Egypt to regain Sinai which Israel had occupied since 1967. President Mubarak warned against "an attempt to drive a wedge between groups of the Egyptian people and their armed forces and government." He threatened he would take harsh measures against Palestinians living in Egypt.

Observers noticed in this regard that most opposition parties and political forces had remained silent about these critical remarks. In fact, some political circles in Cairo indicated that there was no difference between Husni Mubarak's stance on Palestine and that of President al-Sadat.

The clearest rebuttal to these critical remarks against the PLO made either by

the president or by some senior officials came from the Grouping Party which affirmed on the pages of its newspaper, AL-AHALI a number of basic facts. The newspaper stated that these basic facts must govern Egypt's relations with the Palestinian Revolution.

Among these facts is the one about the common interests between the Egyptian and the Palestinian peoples. These common interests require that there always be a dialogue between the two, and everyone has a right to agree or disagree in that regard.

Also among the facts referred to by the Grouping Party is the one about the Palestinian cause being an Egyptian cause because Israel and Zionism did pose and will always pose a direct threat to Egypt's security. To blame Egypt's problems on its support for the Palestinian people is non-factual because the basic reason for Egypt's economic and social problems is the existence of misguided economic policies.

Circles of the opposition Grouping Party also responded to what was mentioned in the critical remarks that were made against the PLO. It was stated that all of Egypt had approved of the Camp David Accords. The Grouping Party referred to the opposition with which these accords were met. The party also referred to the fact that no one had the right to discuss the legitimacy of the organization representing Palestinians in the occupied land or outside that land. The party stated that the organization earned that legitimate right by virtue of the fact that thousands of its members have lost their lives since 1965.

The Land in Ma'adi

The other question, and the last one in this report, surfaced in Cairo a few days ago; events [pertaining to that question] are taking place in the new suburb of Ma'adi, near Cairo. This question has to do with an area of land that is 180 feddans. This area had been designated for use as a burial ground for Jews in Egypt. After the Camp David Accords were signed and relations between Egypt and Israel were normalized, President al-Sadat issued a decree nullifying ownership claims that had been made on this land by Egyptians during the Arab-Israeli wars when the Jews had emigrated from Egypt.

The land was actually returned to the Jewish community in accordance with al-Sadat's decree. But although this land had been designated by the state as a burial ground for Jews, the Israelis did appoint an agent [to look after it] when they returned to Egypt with "the normalization" of relations. That agent is a Jew of Egyptian origin who is presently employed as an attorney. His name is (Ili Mas'ud), and he is presently selling and leasing the land of new Ma'adi at market prices.

(Ili Mas'ud) is "selling" the land to Jews, but only leasing it to Egyptians.

Several agencies have objected to these sale and lease operations. Among these agencies is the Ma'adi Housing and Reconstruction Company which took its case to court in a dispute over part of the land with the Jewish community.

The Engineering Administration for the Ma'adi suburb is also one of those agencies that protested the sale and lease of this land. This agency is refusing to

grant building permits on this land for two reasons. First, the Jewish community is claiming ownership of 180 feddans, whereas so far Jewish graves occupy no more than an area of 50 feddans. The second reason is that this land was granted by the state in accordance with an old law so that it may be used, as we've indicated, as a burial ground for Jews and not as land that the Jews could dispose of as they please.

The question has repercussions, and (Ili Mas'ud), the Jewish attorney representing the Jewish community is affirming that he obtained a presidential decree from President al-Sadat [indicating] that the Jewish community owns this land and the graves that are on it.

8592

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IMPACT OF REMOVAL OF AUTO SUBSIDY DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Mar 83 p 3

[Article by Hurriyah Ahmad Husayn: "The Automobile Market in Egypt in State of Limbo; the Secret behind the Sudden Decree Increasing the Price of an Egyptian Car 1,000 Pounds and Creating Imbalance in the Automobile Market"]

[Text] 'Adil Jazzarin replies, "The high price of the dollar and the worldwide increase in automobile prices caused this situation."

Economists say that what has to be done is to reduce costs and improve quality, not raise prices.

What happened to the automobile market in Egypt?

What did the recent decree which raised the prices of Nasr automobiles do to this market? Prices for these automobiles, which are manufactured locally, were raised by as much as 1,000 pounds per car.

Was that decree unavoidable as economists affirm? Could other decrees have been made to save the company from its losses instead of resorting to the easiest of solutions, that of raising prices?

It is this solution that placed Egyptian automobiles in a new situation; they lost their most important advantage: their low price. This decision forced Egyptian automobiles to compete with other kinds of automobiles that are better in quality and lower in price.

The Ministry of Industry stunned us with a decree that raised the prices of automobiles produced by its plants significantly. Although the intent was to raise car prices to make them compatible with world-wide price increases, the sudden increase in the prices of locally produced cars at a rate that exceeded all expectations is a matter that is raising questions about the reasons behind this decree.

Before we proceed further with our discussion of the reasons and consequences of this decree, there are facts about the automobile industry in our country [that should be spelled out].

Despite continuing price increases automobile production in Egypt is still

somewhat less than perfect. Two months ago the People's Assembly debated the fact that Nasr passenger cars in particular were poorly finished.

The volume of production in Egypt's automobile industry is still not economical enough to allow the cost of producing a car in our country to be reduced. We produce about 20,000 cars a year, whereas economic production at one of the international companies is as much as 6,000 cars a day.

Although Korea entered this industry 10 years after we did, it was able to increase production so much that it is now exporting its automobiles at very low prices.

Accordingly, automobile prices--even prices for compact cars--are considered very high in relation to average per capita income in Egypt, which is 460 dollars a year. The price for a Nasr 127 model automobile is more than 5,000 pounds after the increase.

According to the recent decree the increase in automobile prices is between 500 and 1,500 Egyptian pounds.

This decree is based on the fact that automobiles are luxury goods and that the state does not have to subsidize or support them. However, it was the state's previous policy to encourage individuals to come up with their own solutions to the transportation problem. It was the state's policy to provide compact cars at prices that were moderate and affordable to people with average incomes.

To encourage citizens along this line, the state granted easy terms to citizens buying automobiles on installment plans through organizations and professional associations. This actually led to the fact that private automobiles constituted 45 percent of transportation in Egypt.

The first question is this: why this sudden and exorbitant increase in automobile prices? Engineer 'Adil Jazzarin, chairman of the board of al-Nasr Automobile Manufacturing Company replies, "This method was a response to practical exigencies. Prices for production requirements rose worldwide, and prices for automobile components, like batteries, glass and upholstery, rose in Egyptian markets. Along with that, the value of [our] currency fell, and foreign currency rates of exchange rose. All this placed tremendous [financial] burdens on the company, which paid 13.7 million pounds in interest to the banks as a result of its overdrarts.

"Production requirements that are paid for in hard currency made us incur another 13.6 million pounds in currency exchange differences. In addition, there were customs fees, production fees and the inevitable increase in wages and labor costs].

'Adil Jazzarin adds, "It would be impossible to reach the point of economic production in Egypt because the automobile industry requires a very large investment. The domestic market could not absorb the cars that would be produced. The automobile industry in our country cannot be considered an export industry because it would be impossible for us to compete with the giant international corporations, [especially] when we know that the Fiat Company, for example, produces 6,000 cars a day.

"The fact that Korea is conquering the world with its automobiles is due to the availability of inexpensive labor and the large volume of production in that country. Prices for al-Nasr Company cars cannot be compared with prices for cars from the eastern bloc. This is because cars from the eastern bloc are brought into the country according to agreements that calculate the dollar's worth at 40 piasters. At the same time the dollar costs al-Nasr Company 140 piasters."

These specifically are the parameters of the question which the automobile industry is experiencing in Egypt as these were explained by the chairman of the board of al-Nasr Automobile Manufacturing Company. However, the company's decision to raise prices and what that increase may bring about in the automobile market in Egypt require further discussion. [Further discussion of] the reasons for that decision and the effects it could have on automobile prices is required.

Dr Samir Tubar, professor of economics at Cairo University says, "I am opposed to raising prices. If profit is the difference between cost and revenue, then making a profit can be realized in one of two ways: by reducing costs or raising prices. Raising prices is undoubtedly the easier way.

"Raising prices is a way of covering up slack and sluggish performance. It is also unacceptable that the alternative be losses for the public sector or subsidies by the state. The inescapable alternative is rather that of changing the process of production, doing away with waste and raising production averages.

"This problem cannot be solved by having machines replace human beings as was done in General Motors where operations are automated. This means that there is a special operating program for each machine, and human beings interfere [in the manufacturing process] only to supervise and ascertain that there are no defects. However, replacing human beings with machines requires a large volume of production, a large market, and large financing; none of this is available in Egypt. This is another problem because fixed costs in the automobile industry are very high and must be divided among the largest number of produced units so that economic production can be achieved. At General Motors this is manifested in the fact that the company produces 5 automobiles a minute. The alternative is to raise the productivity of workers, and this is the responsibility of management.

"Egyptian workers are fast learners, but the fact that they are inundated with problems weakens their production. Japanese workers were able to make Japan conquer the world [with Japanese products] because their wages are low. Wages for Japanese workers are tied to their productivity per hour, and this means that the cost of wages is determined by the number of produced units.

"Therefore, attention must be devoted to improving production rates, reducing administrative costs and cutting down losses in time, money and materials during the manufacturing process. Surplus raw materials, plastics, sheet iron, glass and rubber used in manufacturing cars can be used in other ancillary industries such as refrigerators, radios and washing machines. This is what is called the utilization of ancillary surpluses.

Many American companies have turned to this method to keep costs as low as possible. General Motors and the Ford Motor Company used this method to manufacture refrigerators. They benefited from the experience of workers; they used the surplus raw materials; and they utilized labor in the best possible way.

Accordingly, they realized economic savings for the project; these savings were manifested in reduced costs per manufactured unit and, accordingly, high profits."

But to what extent will the decision to raise automobile prices affect the automobile market?

Dr Samir Tubar affirms that at the present time, considering the conditions of public transportation in our country, an automobile is not a luxury.

"Even if we were to concede that an automobile is a luxury, the problem of an economic decree is that economic interventions are numerous. Accordingly, it would be difficult to separate commodities from each other. An automobile may be considered a luxury, but it cannot be isolated from other products. A citizen who buys a car after its price goes up will try to make up for the difference he had to pay by charging more for the essential commodity which he sells. When automobile prices go up, demand for taxicabs will grow and taxicab fares will rise. Everyone who rides a taxicab will then charge more for his services, and so on. Hence it becomes evident that raising prices in the first round would affect the commodity itself as well as the alternatives to it. In the second round, raising the price of a commodity would affect other commodities. Therefore, we must be deliberate in making decisions that increase automobile prices, even if there were a deficit, so that we would not set off a general wave of high prices. We cannot accept the notion of raising prices until we exhaust [all efforts] to reduce costs and control performance rates."

The situation at privately owned al-Nasr dealerships reflected the reaction of people who were on waiting lists to purchase these locally manufactured automobiles after they were stunned by the price increases.

Engineer Ibrahim Yusuf, general manager of the Yusuf Motors Company, an authorized dealer for al-Nasr cars says, "Some customers cancelled their reservations, and the down payment they had made was reimbursed. These cancellations were due to the fact that the new prices created more than one alternative on the market. The customer can now purchase a car immediately without waiting. He also has more models to choose from, and he is not tied to a certain style or a certain color. A person who placed himself on the waiting list to buy an Egyptian car did so because its price was suitable, but now that the price has risen and is even equal to that of a number of imported automobiles, such as all kinds of Japanese cars and cars from the eastern bloc, the customer will prefer an imported car. Local cars serve as a price barometer and indicator of market tendencies. When the price of the 131 model automobile goes up so that it costs almost 10,000 pounds, the customer will have to prefer a Fiat 132 model that costs about 8,000 pounds.

"If one were to take into account the fact that the majority of those who reserved al-Nasr cars were civil servants, [one would realize that] for them such an increase is a major one. Evidence for this lies in the fact that when reservations were being taken for the Ritmo [model], only one third of the required number [of potential buyers] made reservations because the price of the car was high and because the down payment that was required to reserve a car was also high. The company was then compelled to make a 10 percent reduction in the price of the car."

Engineer Ibrahim Yusuf believes that people's reactions differ according to their specific needs. To some people the price increase was not a reason for changing their reservation]. Others, however, will prefer to buy an imported car. And there will be others still who will prefer to buy a good used car.

It is therefore expected that used car prices will rise considerably because the market for them will grow.

However, this decision will not affect prices for imported cars.

Engineer Ibrahim Yusuf finds fault with the company for not notifying dealers promptly about the decisions to increase prices. Dealers were notified 5 days after the decision was made, and this created many complaints and problems with people who had reserved cars. Some people who were on the waiting list paid the old price for their cars despite the fact that the decree had been issued.

The al-Nasr dealer expresses his astonishment with the timing of the decision which entailed that people on the waiting list to buy the third shipment of cars would pay two different prices for their cars. It would have been just had the decision been applied when the sale of the fourth shipment of automobiles was to begin on the 1st of March.

Engineer Ibrahim Yusuf adds, "Now that the subsidy has been lifted from al-Nasr cars, customers are entitled to get their money's worth without any mistakes or blemishes in the finishing process. Customers must be able to get their cars in the colors they want. As a salesman, I cannot promote defective merchandise that costs 8,000 pounds, not can I force a customer to accept a certain color. When the car was relatively low-priced, it was possible to sell it with some defects. But now that its price is comparable to that of imported cars, if these defects are not avoided, the marketing of these cars will be affected in view of the stiff competition from cars that are finished better and that sell for the same price.

How did the decision to increase the prices of al-Nasr cars affect sales?

Automobile market experts agree that these decisions did affect the market. Sales and purchases of both Egyptian and imported cars have all but come to a standstill. It is expected that the automobile market will continue to decline and remain unstable for no less than 5 months until the market adjusts to these new prices.

Some proprietors of automobile showrooms believe that the appeal of Japanese cars will grow. Prices for these cars are between 6,500 and 8,500 pounds. [Their appeal will grow] particularly after spare parts and service centers for them have become available. Besides, the manufacturing and esthetic advantages of these cars outweigh those of locally manufactured cars.

Proprietors of private showrooms affirm that demand for automobiles from the eastern bloc will also grow. Consumers are now certain that the modified 128 model automobiles, which are now on the market, have the same motor that can be found in a Zestava which costs about 2,000 pounds less than the 128 model after the new increase.

BRIEFS

SUDANESE DEFENSE OFFICIAL DEPARTS--Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)--Sudanese State Minister for Defence and Civil Aviation General Fathi Abu al-Hasan left here today following a week long visit during which he attended the meetings of the technical committees of the House Council for Integration between Egypt and Sudan. In a pre-departure statement, the Sudanese official said his visit aimed at putting into force the resolutions issued by the Higher Council for Integration on air transportation between the two countries. He added an agreement on operating the Khartoum-al-Danaqilah Cairo airline has been reached, adding that the maiden flight of this new line will start this month. He further said that another agreement was reached on reducing air fares between the two countries by 60 percent. [Text] [NC081142 Cairo MENA in English 1123 GMT 8 Apr 83]

PROTOCOL WITH NIGER ON URANIUM--Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)--Egypt and Niger today completed drafting a protocol of cooperation on the supply of uranium ore for peaceful purposes. Egypt would need the uranium ore to operate the eight nuclear power stations which it plans to build between now and the year 2000. The minister of electricity and energy, Mahir Abazah, said after his talks with Niger's minister of mining and industry that the protocol would be signed in the next few months. He added that a joint committee would be formed to put the agreement into execution. The agreement, he said, was the result of talks between President Husni Mubarak and Niger President Seyni Kountche during the nonaligned summit conference in New Delhi last month. [Text] [NC071756 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 7 Apr 83]

OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA--Nairobi, 7 Apr (AFP)--Egypt will take part in the Organization of African Unity summit called for June 6-11 in Addis Ababa, a leading Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said here today. (Salah Bassiouni), head of the ministry's research department, told a press conference that Egypt wanted "every country" to attend the summit, which was postponed twice in Libya last year for lack of a quorum. Egypt, which stayed away from Tripoli because the conference was being chaired by Libyan leader Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi, confirmed that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) had been invited to Addis Ababa, but he did not think it should attend. The SDAR, whose presence caused a boycott by some states of the first Tripoli summit, agreed to stay away from the second, which then collapsed in a row over the representation of Chad. The SDAR, whose POLISARIO guerrillas are fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, has been recognized by a majority of OAU members. It has said it intends to be present at a reconvened summit. [Text][AB071117 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 7 Apr 83]

ESCAPEE'S FUNDS IMPOUNDED--Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)--The Court of Ethics convened today under its president, Counselor Dr Ahmad Rif'at Khafajah. The court handed down a verdict whereby custodianship is imposed on the funds and on all the property of escapee millionaire Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy--funds and property worth an estimated 24 million pounds. The verdict also imposes custodianship on the funds of 'Abd al-Hayy's wife, mother, brother, father-in-law and two sons. The court turned down an application by the socialist public prosecutor to place under custodianship the funds office employees of Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy, whose names 'Abd al-Hayy had used in incorporating the Al-Jizah Foodstuffs National Company. 'Abd al-Hayy used the names of the workers to evade taxation as well as all his obligations toward the state arising from his activities. The investigation held by the office of the socialist prosecutor has shown that 'Abd al-Hayy had evaded the payment of taxes totaling 15 million pounds. Just 2 days before a decision was made banning him from leaving the country, 'Abd al-Hayy left with the Egyptian tae-kwan-do team that was on its way to El Salvador to participate in a Latin American competition. He has not since returned to Egypt. [Excerpts] [NC091142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Apr 83]

CS0: 4500/170

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'GREEN BOOK' CONVENES

Opens 7 April

LD082108 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Al-Bayan-al Awwal, Jumada Thani 25, 8 Apr, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY-- The first international conference on Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi's ideology (The Theory and Practice of the Green Book) was opened here at 7.30 pm (local time) yesterday.

The leader and thinker Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi attended the opening of this conference, which is being attended by political ideologies [as received], and a large number of intellectuals and researchers from all parts of the world.

The opening speech was delivered by the secretary of the People's Congress of Qaryun's University, where the conference is being held. He welcomed the participants and stressed, "This ideological gathering, which brought together this dynamic force, is the symbol for human interaction and proof that the Third International theory has brought man closer to one another and destroyed all barriers."

He added, "This ideological gathering coincides with our celebrations marking the 7th anniversary of the 7th April student revolution, which resolved the conflict in the interest of the revolutionary force against the reactionary right."

The secretary of the International Institute for the Green Book Research, Ahmed Shahati, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the intellectuals and militants who have come from all parts of the world to participate in this huge international gathering on Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi ideology.

He said: "I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to the professors, intellectuals and militants whose number has exceeded one thousand and who have come from all parts of the world, comprising the six continents especially as we know they had to overcome a great deal of pressure exerted by imperialism to prevent their coming to this international meeting.

Despite all these difficulties, they are here because they are convinced that an ideology is not a monopoly of a great or single nation, nor of a particular

race or color of man. They are here because of their conviction that this theory has become a reality at a time when the world is suffering from a near intellectual bankruptcy. This bankruptcy manifests itself in the political and economic disturbances the world is witnessing today.

He added: "The attendance of this vast group of intellectuals and philosophers is considered to be a challenge to the forces of imperialism, Zionism and racism. It is not surprising that the vanguard ideology of the Green Book created by the revolutionary thinker Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi should meet with such international importance.

"This is that the world is facing grave problems due to the failure of the prevailing theories of the world today."

Mr Shahati continued: "The problems facing the world developed under the worst political systems and dictatorships which were opposed to people's freedom and legitimate aspirations. There is daily evidence of popular rejection of the prevalent ideologies as means for solving man's problems, especially by the people of Africa, Asia, South America, Western Europe, America, Canada and others. This demonstrates further the failure of these ideologies to solve the problems of mankind. Noticeably, what has been missing is a revolutionary alternative to fill the vacuum created by the rejection of those theories and to overcome the resultant difficulties with its genuine solutions to man's ever increasing problems."

Commenting on the background of the Green Book and the Third Universal Theory he said: "It is not surprising that the person who formulated the Third Universal Theory grew up in a region associated with the revelation of religious messages and seats of civilizations. The region forms part of the Arab homeland, African continent and extends along the Mediterranean."

He added: "His country had endured terrible conditions of oppression, occupation and corruption but Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was able to learn from his country's past experience and those of other weaker countries dominated by the big powers by absorbing the lessons of history and the laws which governed communities. He succeeded in overcoming the barriers which debilitate the minds of many thinkgs. He studied the ideologies prevalent in the world today from a human and social perspective and discovered the incapability of those theories to achieve happiness, security and peace for man. Thus, he formulated a Third Universal which transcended the previous ideologies by presenting radical and objective answers to the prevailing problems and advocating a new era full of hope for complete emancipation from all forms of oppression and exploitation."

Shahati pointed out the dire need to radically revise the relations which exist in the world today whether between individuals or people of different nations. He said that all the people are suffering from oppressive regimes which only claim to be democratic. On the power struggle within the political systems he said: "This conflict always results in isolating the governing body, whether one person, group, party or class, and the defeat of the people, i.e. the defeat of true democracy."

He added: "The Green Book attributes the hard conditions which the people have had to endure to the existing false democracies upon which economic and social relations necessarily depend. This is inevitable because the oppressive governing body, which basically depended upon the deprivation of freedom, cannot voluntarily grant the freedom needed.

This is considered to be the worst period in man's history with miseries and tragedies ever on the increase. The control powerful countries exercise over the capabilities of small nations has reached an unprecedented level and has subjected the people of entire nations to the miseries of famine, poverty, malnutrition and the lack of this most basic commodities of life. Statistics show that 50 million people, mostly from the Third World countries, die annually from famine.

The modern industrial civilization is lame because it depends upon the material factor only and neglects the spiritual aspect. This has led to a series of serious setbacks that have been detrimental to our communities."

Shahati also commented on the serious implications of the invasions to which Third World cultures and civilizations are subjected by the great industrialized countries saying "The international economy today is based upon oppressive relations in which the great industrial countries represent the most powerful and oppressive side while the developing countries and the Third World stand for the crushed and exploited."

He added: "The deterioration of the developing countries' economies is due to the colonialist countries pressures and the uneven North-South dispute.

The international community has realized the consequences of the deterioration of world's economy and spotted the importance of finding a new economic international order.

The great Al Fatah revolution, inspired by the Green Book, has come as a final solution to the existing oppressive conditions and that the Third Universal Theory is the natural outcome of people's aspirations to lead their lives away from any form of domination and exploitation and in line with their true interests. The Green Book puts forward the final solution to problems such as the form of government and democracy by overtaking the dictatorship era into the era of real democracy. This new theory gives rise to discipline and effective direct democracy as well as to people's authority without representation.

Bringing about freedom will eventually lead to solving the economic problems because this would put an end to all forms of exploitation and consequently enables a prosperous socialist society, based on social equality where the wealth is owned by all members of society, to emerge. For instance, the workers could become partners in the production if all their needs had been liberated from all forms of dominations. The workers, regardless of any improvement in their conditions, remain slaves. In both, the capitalist and communist systems the workers, despite their gains in the social security field and their shares in the profits, are still exploited. This proves that the two theories, capitalism and Marxism, are two sides of the same coin.

The achievements of the great Al Fatah revolution, through its application of the Green Book's dictat are being consolidated and widely spread. The Libyan Arab people rule themselves by themselves through their people's congresses and committees which are the beginning of the end to get rid of all forms of dictatorial tools." Mr Shahati also reviewed in his speech the practical applications of the thought included in the Green Book at the national and international political fields. He said in this respect that these thoughts are applicable not only regionally but world wide because they deal with human problems and give solution to chronic social problems.

"This pioneering ideology, applied here in the Jamahiriya, is making its way through into other places in the world and is being adopted and defended by other peoples which proves the international aspect of this universal theory.

"This great first international conference on the Green Book coincides with the 10th anniversary of the popular revolution in the Jamahiriya in April 1973. This revolution led to a number of social interactions and gave rise to other qualitative revolution's in different fields such as the workers revolution which transformed the workers from wage-earners to partners and then the students revolution of April 7. These two revolutions are the natural outcome of the popular revolution.

"Intended, in my speech, to draw a brief account on the Green Book and its influence on the Jamahiriya which embraced it and adopted this ideology and was honored to experience its application for the first time in human history."

Mr Shahati has, in his speech, expressed his deep appreciation to the thinkers and scholars who had come from all continents to take part in the great international seminar to discuss the thoughts included in the Third Universal Theory and to further challenge imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and racism and prove the unity of the peoples of the world.

He said, "This special importance given to the Third Universal Theory proves the participants' interests in knowledge and genuine search for new ideology to rescue the humanity. There are more than one common which link us all up together. I am quite confident that our ideological beliefs will strengthen our ties until the high [word indistinct] which we all strengthen believe in emerge victorious and rescue the human society." [as received] Mr Shahati has again thanked in his speech the participants and the foreign press for covering this great international [as received] and wished the conference to proceed successfully.

Following the speech delivered by the secretary of the International Study and Research Center for the Green Book, the floor was given to Dr Domingo Ranjed, lecturer at Venezuela Central University, and member of the centre's secretariat. He said "I speak here in my person capacity and not as a member of the secretariat. I would like to convey to you the voice of Latin American people who have been fighting for freedom. Our journey to Libya is like someone traveling in the dark in pursuit of ray of light because we know that Libya today holds the key to future of humanity as a whole. It is the ideology of Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's Green Book.

This international gathering is the link between the different participants who have come here in pursuit of freedom and justice. I am proud to say this. We are here today because the world is passing through one of its most critical economic crisis in modern history. There are 30 million unemployed in Western Europe and Northern America alone and millions more in Third World countries which are being trodden upon by the world market."

Dr Ranjed pointed out the oppression and sufferings of the peoples of the world including the peoples of Latin America who are still deprived of the basic human right as a result of the dictatorial regime. But, he said, the Latin American people, despite all the oppressive measures, are aware of the role and marching the road of justice and freedom.

In this respect, he praised the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the criminal gangs of dictator Somoza who was, in spite of the U.S. backing, toppled and the people of Nicaragua gained their freedom and became the symbol of struggle in Latin America.

He also praised the Salvadorean people's struggle against the ruling junta and condemned the killing of the Salvadorean freedom fighter Anna Maria which was carried out by CIA agents last Wednesday. We have come here, he said, to study the Green Book which includes fundamental human rights and that the masses society, which was only a mirage, has become a reality and can be witnessed here in Libya. [as received]

We have come here, he added, to see beyond the pages of the Green Book and to witness the application of the masses era where the people govern themselves by themselves and control their resources.

The Green Book, he said, has consolidated the dreams of philosophers to build a society without rulers and the ruled.

"We have travelled thousands of miles to come here and study the Third Universal Theory which will emancipate humanity from slavery and agitate the masses to break the chains and crush the oppressors."

President Ahmed Kerekou of Benin spoke at the opening session and began with a tribute to the thinker Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi who has given humanity an international ideology to achieve happiness. He said: "The Third universal Theory was formulated to deal with the prevailing political, economic and social concepts and provide radical solutions to man's problems. This first international conference on the ideology of Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi--the Green Book--has acquitted an international and historic recognition as testified by the attendance of this large number of thinkers and researchers.

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's ideology includes solutions to the problems of the people of the world caused by exploitation, oppression and autocracy of the imperialist powers against them. He has found a solution to the problem of the exploitation of man to man in the political, economic and social sectors.

The new society formulated upon the ideology of Mu'ammār al-Qadhhdhafi is not only applicable to the Jamahiriyyah but to the rest of the world in view of Colonel al-Qadhhdhafi's success in providing peaceful solutions in the Third Universal Theory to all the problems, especially that of the complete sovereignty of the people by finding a solution to the governing machinery.

The Third Universal Theory heralds a new era for the people based on equality and justice. Hence, we cannot but acclaim together this historic contribution. We in the Republic of Benin have chosen the political system which we believe guarantees the progress of the people according to the revolutionary principle of self-reliance in setting-up the new order. The system draws upon several dictates of the Third Universal Theory and Benin will undoubtedly find in the Green Book (the Third Universal Theory) many values to be adopted."

President Kerekou spoke also of the solidarity of the revolutionary forces and the support of the Beninese people for the Libyan Arab people in their confrontation of U.S. terrorist provocations aimed at undermining their freedom. He stressed the staunch stand of the progressive revolutionary force against imperialist conspiracies in Africa and other places of the world. In his final statement he said: "Mu'ammār al-Qadhhdhafi's ideology--Green Book--will be part of the golden pages of history at the political, economic and social ideological levels."

The floor was then given to Carlos Ninis, member of the Sandinista command, who started his address with special greetings to the leader, Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhhdhafi, and said "We have come here, to this friendly country, to see for ourselves the influence of the Green Book and the emergence of the new society which was the result of an active and dynamic work by the masses in defence of their own interests. Despite the distance that separates us, we managed to familiarize ourselves with the ideology of the first leader. Our popular revolution in Nicaragua admits that it was inspired by the Libyan people's struggle. We should draw our lesson from the Libyan people's experience and from the 1969 revolution. At that time the Nicaraguan people were waging their first steps of struggle toward the final emancipation.

The Nicaraguan people just like the Libyan people reject imperialism and supports the people's struggle for their final emancipation. We hope that the Salvadorean people will, like the Libyan and Nicaraguan people, be able to liberate itself and defeat imperialism. We will support it with every possible means."

The Sandinista representative also talked in his address of the imperialist designs on his country saying that imperialism wants to crush the Sandinista in order to make the struggle for freedom in El Salvador and Honduras much more difficult for the people there.

He added, "We are paying very dear price for our victory over Somoza and imperialism will not forgive us because of our uncompromising positions and rejection of its domination. The Salvadoran people will pay even much more dear price in their fight against imperialism."

The Sandinista representative stressed the importance of this international seminar on the Greek Book saying "our young revolution should draw its lessons from other revolutions and from this gathering we want to learn from the Libyan people's experience in building this new society and to learn how they managed to exploit their natural resources, which they fully control, to develop the different aspects of life such as education and culture and to prosper while defending their sovereignty.

The Greek Book is a contribution toward the solving of the problems of the Third World countries which are experiencing unjust economic systems and forced to sell their raw materials very cheaply."

He continued: "We should like to take advantage of the lessons and models provided by the revolution in Libya, especially those which will help the Nicaraguan people set up a popular democracy and a new order of which our children and youths, the defenders of the revolution, will be proud.

Imperialism has taken a hostile stand against the Libyan Arab people and holds them in contempt because imperialism does not permit people of small nations to oppose empires, domination and arrogance. However, it is the people of small nations, like the Libyan Arab, Grenadian and Nicaraguan people, that have given imperialism its hard lesson. Victory is soon to come also to the Salvadoran people.

We shall learn a great deal at this gathering which we are fortunate to attend.

Our presence in the Jamahiriyah will give us an opportunity to learn from the lessons and experiments of the 13 years of the revolution. In the name of all our people in Central America and the Sandinista command, we greet the participants at this huge ideological meeting."

He also conveyed the greetings of the Salvadoran people with whom Nicaragua has strong ties and will never abandon.

He stressed: "Nicaragua will strongly repulse all imperialist conspiracies against it. Nicaragua today is the target of attacks carried out by Somoza's clique from Honduras which are strongly backed by the U.S. Administration. The U.S. is using all its resources to protect lackey regimes in the region from being overthrown. However, the Sandinista revolution will foil all these attempts."

Mr Manea Manescu the Romanian vice-president conveyed in his speech the Romanian people's greetings to the leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people saying: "I am very grateful to take part in this important international seminar which will enable us to exchange our sociopolitical thoughts and consequently broaden our knowledge. This ideological exchange will benefit us all and, hopefully, will come out with fruitful results especially in this modern times where the political, social, cultural and ideological difference are quite distinct. I am quite convinced that this seminar would provoke many arguments at both the theoretical and practical levels. We in Romania believe that the all the peoples of the world are after the same aims of social and economic progress.

The Romanian guest also pointed out the good relations between the Libyan Arab and Romanian peoples saying that these relations have been fruitful and expressed the true friendship between the two peoples.

This was the objective of Colonel Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi's meeting with President Nicolae Ceausescu, he concluded.

9 April Session

LD092300 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 9 Apr 83

[All names in parentheses spelled as received]

[Text] Al Bayan Al Awwal, Jumada Thani 26, April 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY-- The first international conference on Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi's ideology (Theory and Practice of the Green Book) resumed its session here this morning. A number of papers were presented and discussed at three specialized work-shops, dealing with economic, political and social aspects of the Third International Theory. A number of philosophers and researchers joined in the discussions.

The researcher (Muhammad 'Ali Tsur) tabled a research paper entitled "The Issue of Freedom and Democracy." In it he analysed prevailing democracies through traditional theories and these theories view of authority.

(Tsur) said these theories are incapable of satisfying the demands and expectations of the people. He also spoke on the bodies which may control natural and production resources in general. He said Mu'ammr al-Qadhdhafi's ideas in the Green Book provide an ideal solution through the restoration of supreme authority to the people unlike the situation currently prevailing in various regimes throughout the world. He said the green book provides a new understanding in that the control of the means of production and natural resources rest with the people. This revolutionary concept, he added, reformulates the concept of direct people's democracy.

The researcher analysed the dicta of the Third Universal Theory's first fundamental axiom. He said this concept respects man and added that the theory truly expresses the practice of direct democracy.

(Tsur) said contemporary democracy is in a state of crisis and that humanity today believes more than ever that it does not live in a state of democracy.

Finally, (Tsur) expressed hope in the fulfillment of the Third Universal Theory's axioms and goals of popular struggle for happiness, prosperity and the creation of a new role for mankind.

Mr (Sandra Sikaram), Education College-Colombo University, presented a paper entitled "Great Democratic Experiences." He began with an introduction on the historical evolution of the concepts of democracy and parliamentary representation. He referred to the complex debates surrounding these questions.

The Green Book, he said, offers a solution to the instrument of rule which represents the fundamental problem facing human societies. The people find equality and brotherhood through the basic people's congresses, which eliminate class divisions and privileges prevailing in the conventional parliamentary democracies.

In the Jamahiri (mass) system all social sectors are united and there are no pretexts for divisive factors. There is also no need for parties.

Dr (Naser) Mirza), Arab and Islamic history--Middle East College--Filport University--Australia, presented a paper entitled "Freedom and Democracy." He referred to man's arduous efforts to find a social system guaranteeing man's happiness. But the Green Book has found the solution to the problem of democracy.

On Islam and democracy, he said that theories dealing with the question remained loyal to the original values of Arab nationality and the cause of Arab unity. He also gave a resume on the experiences of previous social revolutions, particularly the Bolshevik Revolution.

It is clear, he said, that there is no way to attain freedom but through the ideas of the Green Book, which proposes the formation of people's congresses and committees to realise genuine democracy.

He added: "It is time for humanity to attain a social system stemming from the people's will, accommodating people's needs with God's teachings. This depends on man's practice in running all social affairs and taking part in all instruments of authority so as to attain a society based on moral values."

The other papers presented this morning to the three workshops were:

1. Democratic systems and networks of contacts between societies by Dr Irham Yasir, Turkey.
2. Need and slavery in the Green Book, by Dr Lakishouri Ibsat Sirma, India.
3. Need and existence by researcher Roubi Roy, India.
4. The workers popular participation and the Third International Theory by researcher Joseph Wilconsas, Australia.
5. The economies of partners and not wage labourers by researcher Akhdar I'wan, America.
6. The new world order by Makidi Quantman, the U.S.
7. The deployment of profits in capitalist economies by Nato Edwardo, Brazil.

The papers in the third workshop, dealing with social affairs were:

1. Is woman a biological or a social entity by Zehra Al-Husayni, Sri Lanka.
2. Morals and man's value by Nicola Basardwaki, Greece.

3. Ideas on education in the Green Book, by Professor Albert Gordon, Canada.
4. Man and the value of man, by Bashrama, India.

All papers were debated during the proceedings.

Dr Sursh Chandra, lecturer in political science at New Delhi University presented a research paper on freedom and democracy and the fundamental [word indistinct] for realising true democracy.

Dr Chandra said Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book clearly pointed the differences between democratic and undemocratic practices. He also quoted dicta from the Green Book affirming the falseness of contemporary democracies and sham parliamentary representation. Dr Chandra asserted that there can be no salvation for the masses unless they are liberated from stifling parliamentary institutions and authority as handed over to the people.

Dr Ahmad al-Husari, lecturer in law at Qar Yunis University delivered a paper entitled "Women's Affairs in the Third Universal Theory." Dr Al-Husari reviewed the human basis upon which the Third Universal Theory viewed the place of women in the family and society. He also reviewed Eastern and Western concepts on the status of women. He said the adage "There is no difference between men and women" is designed to drag women into unlimited difficulties. He added that this adage is an illusion and a major misconception of the nature and capabilities of women bestowed by God.

Dr Al-Husari also analysed the humane dimensions of women as seen in the third part of the Green Book (The Social Axiom of the Third Universal Theory). He said the Green Book alerts humanity to the true function of women.

The chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement, Nicholas Psadoraki also read a research paper in which he said Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book opens new paths for dealing with society. He said the Green Book's ideas reflect important facts that tough [as received] upon the reality of humanity's current tragedy.

The researcher later spoke of the relations between morality and natural law, morality and the Green Book and morality and human value.

After the interval, Mr Roger Lorlam from Canada presented a study on the Green Book. He expressed hope that a centre for the Green Book studies would be opened in Canada. He said: "There are a number of intellectuals and researchers who desire to study the Green Book so as to confront the ill-intentioned U.S. imperialist campaigns against the Jamahiriyah and this book. He referred to the U.S. Fleet's aggressive attempts along the Libyan shores.

He said: "There is a rejection of the Libyans' rights and fear of the Green Book in America. But we Canadians are not fearful of the Green Book. What we are anxious about is the Zionist movement's aggressive acts and lies which it tries to impose on the world. American imperialism denies the others' right to justice. The history of Zionism is replete with blood, from Dayr Yasin to Sabra and Shatila."

The Australian researcher Mrs Nawal Haydar said the ideology of Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi is being subjected to a savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught. She further called for finding the true method of disseminating the Green Book's ideas so that humanity may be rid of the hegemony of rulers. She said the Green Book has offered solutions towards satisfying the needs of different peoples. She added that the overhauling operation in authority is futile. [as received]

At the end of the morning session, Mr Ahmad Shahati explained the organizational structure of the basic people's congresses and committees. He said the Jamahiriyah's democratic experiment can be implemented anywhere else in the world.

Mr 'Ali Fadhil from the Jamahiriyah said the people's congresses and committees are chosen by the masses directly and not through elections or appointment as in party or parliamentary systems. He said the secretariats are only administrative organs and added that the general people's congress is a committee for formulating the decisions of the basic people's congresses.

Dr Ahmad Malza from Australia said in a dissertation on democracy in the Green Book that parties have conflicting ideologies. When, he said, a certain party gains power, it represents no one but itself and the people fall under the pressure of the ruling party. In contrast and in the Green Book, the entire people congregate to practice politics with the "guidance" of parties.

He pointed out that in parliamentary systems, decisions are monopolised by a certain group of people while in the Green Book, decisions are taken popularly by the people's congresses. In the Green Book, he said, the people express their opinions, not individuals who are chosen to express these decisions on behalf of the people.

On the socialist aspects, Dr Farhat Sharwana from the Jamahiriyah said the private and public sectors in the capitalist and communist systems are sectors based upon the principle of wage-earning, whereas the Third Universal Theory means partnership in production and administration.

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EFFORTS TO ENHANCE FISHING INDUSTRY UNDERLINED

Rabat AL-'ALAM AL-SIYASI in Arabic Jan 83 pp 9-10

[Article: "Securing Food, Hard Currency and Employment Through Marine Fishing Sector; Morocco's Revenues From Sea Products Cover at Present 18 Percent of Oil Bill and Can Cover 75 Percent of This Bill; Area of Our Territorial Waters Is 1.1 Million Square Kilometers"]

[Text] The specialized agencies of the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine estimate that the volume of the fish resources with which Morocco's coasts abound permit fishing nearly 1,000,500 tons of various kinds of fish [annually] without harming the reserves or the reproduction of these varieties.

However, the current production figures show that this production does not exceed one-fourth the estimated figure. In 1981, the sector fished 390,000 tons with a total value of 765 dirhams.

These figures can be compared with the figures of the 1980 season when the production amounted to 300,000 tons valued at 555 million dirhams. This comparison shows a considerable increase of 19 percent in volume and 38 percent in value.

Regarding the current 1982 season, the production in the first nine months of the year amounted to 254,000 tons with a total value of 617 million dirhams.

The weather conditions which affected the territorial waters during the year perhaps explain the relative drop in production in comparison with the corresponding period of 1981, even though the monetary value of the 1982 catch has risen relatively.

The Moroccan fleet currently operating in this sector consists of a coastal fleet comprised of 8,444 boats with a total load capacity of 49,000 tons and a high seas fishing fleet comprised of 160 vessels with a total load capacity of 54,300 tons.

Dialogue With People Concerned

The Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine has continued the dialogue with the fishermen and has reviewed the prices of processed fish channelled toward direct [local] consumption, toward the fish preservation plants and toward the fish pulverization plants in order to improve the income of fishermen and fishing boat owners.

The inauguration of Tan-Tan Port was an occasion to adopt a number of measures after consultation with the people concerned. Thus, 70 sardine-fishing boats began to unload their catch in this new port to supply the preservation [canning] plants and to enhance the level of fish consumption in the domestic markets.

It is indubitable that supplying the domestic markets faces numerous problems. This is why the ministry has focused its efforts on studying the means that must be made available to insure continued and constant supply to all parts of Morocco, taking into consideration the citizens' purchasing power.

It is worth noting the efforts made to change the citizens' eating habits and to combat their turning away for frozen fish. This experiment started in Casablanca by virtue of its large population on the one hand and because it offers an ideal society for any study on the other hand. The experiment will be expanded at a later stage to include the major Moroccan cities.

The success of this effort depends on supplying a network of refrigeration equipment for marketing the fish in good condition. It also requires regulating the market in order to supply sea products at affordable prices.

In this regard, it is worth noting that the price of sardine has averaged 2.5 dirhams [per kilogram] and has not exceeded six dirhams for the consumer whereas this price did not exceed 1.36 dirhams in the wholesale market in 1981. In Tan-Tan Port, the price did not exceed one dirham. It is actually noticed that there has been a rise in fish consumption in the southern provinces adjacent to the well-known fishing centers, especially since the inauguration of Tan-Tan Port.

Generally, it can be said that supplying the domestic markets with fish has grown tangibly, rising from 77,000 tons in 1980 to 90,000 tons in 1981.

However, supplying the domestic markets with white-meat fish encounters numerous difficulties, the most important being the impact on its prices by the increasing demand for it on the one hand and by the tendency of the merchants to export it because of the high foreign demand and high prices.

The following figures provide an adequate indication:

The 1980 sales of fresh white-meat fish to the outside world amounted to 60 million dirhams, rising to 240 million dirhams in 1981. It is expected that the figure will reach 300 million dirhams for the 1982 season, thus growing fivefold within just two years.

New Law for Marine Investment and Establishment for Marine Loans

During the current year, the ministry has prepared a new bill on marine investment which is more compatible with the sector's needs. The bill, which may be presented to the next parliamentary session, provides for important incentives linked fundamentally to the coastal fleet and to the national marine workshops.

It is worth noting that efforts were initiated in 1982 to review the marine register which dates back to 1919 to make it more compatible with the current conditions and future aspirations.

In 1982, the investments moved in the direction of acquiring the remaining non-Moroccan fishing facilities. A total of 658 vessels with a total load capacity of 19.714 tons and valued at 415 million dirhams, were Moroccanized. These vessels provided 1,817 job opportunities for sailors.

A study is currently under way to create a banking establishment to finance the marine sector. This establishment will offer loans to finance medium and long-range investments and to cover seasonal fishing (mishaps).

In the sphere of insurance, the ministry has held several contacts with boat owners and the Insurance Directorate to generalize insurance, to make it include the security and safety of the national fleet and to reduce the insurance rates so as to encourage the people concerned.

Vocational Training

In 1982, a total of 320 cadres specialized in the mechanics and surface fishing branches were graduated by the marine education establishments of the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine, in addition to 15 officers graduated from the Higher Marine Studies Institute.

In addition to the above, the ministry has vocational marine schools in Safi and Agadir on the Atlantic coast and Al-Hoceima on the Mediterranean coast to graduate specialized middle-level marine cadres. These schools can accommodate 200 students in the various specializations annually. Schools of the same level will be added to these establishments in each of Tan-Tan, Sidi Efni, Tanger and Nador.

It can be said that from the start of the current five-year plan and until the present, 45 percent of the expectations in cadre training for the years of the plan have been met. This is a pace that makes it possible to exceed the scheduled training.

During the year, discussion days were organized and made it possible to discuss the training programs adopted in order to make them compatible with the growth of the Moroccan marine fishing fleet on the one hand and the constant development in the marine fishing and navigation technologies on the other hand.

Comprehensive Study of Sector

In Cooperation with the Ministry of Equipment and the World Bank, the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine is conducting a comprehensive study on the sector. This study, which will cost nearly \$1 million, proceeds in four main directions with the aim of achieving a balanced and complete growth in the sector. These directions are summed up in the following:

- Studying and analyzing each branch of the sector independently.
- Studying the obstacles facing the growth and development of the sector.
- Formulating a comprehensive development strategy.
- Underlining the projects that can be implemented in the short and long runs.

Efforts by National Ocean Fisheries Bureau

The year 1982 witnessed important efforts by the National Ocean Fisheries Bureau, the most important being:

Equipping a conventional fishing boat within the framework of the program to modernize and assist the conventional fleet. The Bureau's contributions amounted to 3,050,000 dirhams or the equivalent of aid amounting to 4,000 dirhams per unit [fishing boat] in our desert provinces and 3,000 dirhams in the kingdom's other provinces.

Equipping 40 sardine-fishing boats with sonar equipment to detect fish schools. This effort costs two million dirhams.

Advancing aid of 40,000 dirhams to each owner seeking to refurbish his boat and to equip it with means of refrigeration. This effort is intended for improving the production quality.

Devoting attention to the cooperative movement, bringing the number of cooperatives established so far to seven cooperatives distributed as follows: Alhoceima and Tanger on the Mediterranean coast and Asilah, Larache, Mohammedia, Essouira and Tan-Tan on the Atlantic coast.

It is expected that these cooperatives will be supplied with 100 fishing boats which the Bureau has purchased and which it will equip with the required fishing equipments.

Launching the "mother ship" operation in 1981 with the aim of enhancing the volume and revenues of the conventional fishing. The volume of fish collected from the fishing boats operating with the "mother ship" alternatively amounted, by 22 September 1982, to 17,460 tons valued at 8,735,223 dirhams.

Acquiring fishing equipment to develop the coastal fleet in accordance with the provisions of the fishing agreement concluded with Spain on 1 April 1981. This agreement pertains to the purchase of 100 small boats fitted with the necessary fishing equipment and 73,000 plastic containers to be distributed to the fishing boats, fish-transporting trucks and cooperatives to preserve the quality of the fish in all the phases it passes through from the sea to the markets, be they domestic or foreign markets. The agreement also includes 17 refrigeration trucks, 72 net cranes, nets and fishing hooks. The total value of the equipment amounts to 323 million (pesos).

Refrigeration equipment: The first accomplishments in this sphere started in 1981. Thus, in addition to the (refrigeration facilities) built by private Moroccan businessmen in Agadir and Casablanca, four ice plants have been built with the help of the Spanish Government. The first is in Essaouira and has a capacity of 50 tons daily, the second and the third are in Safi and each has a capacity of 25,000 tons daily and the fourth is in Larache and has a capacity of 25 tons also. [Figures as published]

To be able to restore its high-seas fishing fleet which goes to the Port of (Laloth) in Las Palmas because of the inadequate facilities in our ports, a study has been initiated on building a cold store in Agadir with a capacity of 1,500 tons. Contacts are also currently under way to acquire a cold store in Casablanca with a capacity of 200 tons to insure supplying the central and northern provinces with fresh fish.

This is in addition to purchasing refrigerator trucks to supply the plants, beginning with Tan-Tan Port in the south, and to also supply urban centers with fresh fish.

In the sphere of scientific research, Morocco has continued, through the Scientific Ocean Fishing Institute, implementing the scientific research programs along four axes:

1. Evaluating and observing the national fish resources of all kinds, including sardines, crustaceans, shellfish and other kinds.
2. Study the natural environment and fighting pollution.
3. Improving and modernizing the fishing technology and equipment.
4. Studying all the potentials likely to raise the volume of fish caught at sea. These efforts have been exerted within the framework of the agreement concluded between our country on the one hand and the U.N. Development Program and the FAO on the other hand. Morocco's contribution to this cooperative program amounted to two million dirhams in 1982 whereas the contribution of the U.N. Development Program amounted to \$325,000.

Fish markets are being currently built in Tan-Tan, Cap de l'Eau and Nador on the Mediterranean coast in order to market the Mediterranean production in the best condition. Because these markets play a role in making deductions from the sailors' wages, they are also aimed at helping the sailors join social security and utilize the social services.

One of the projects being currently studied by the National Ocean Fisheries Bureau is the purchase of a model ship (fiberglass type) for sardine fishing—a ship fitted with the latest means for detecting the movement of fish schools. This is being done within the framework of the research to modernize the sardine fishing methods and the effort will cost two million dirhams.

Expectations for 1983

The 1983 program of the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine can be summed up in the following:

(1) Creating new work opportunities. It is understood from the contents of the five-year plan that the ministry will create more than 2,000 new jobs in 1983 by Moroccanizing the crews of the high-seas fishing fleet and purchasing new fishing boats. It is hoped that the sector's refrigeration branch will provide 150 more jobs.

(2) Exerting efforts to transfer the Moroccan high-seas fishing fleet from Las Palmas to the Moroccan ports.

There is no doubt that the Moroccan high-seas fishing fleet came into existence by virtue of the incentives provided by the 1973 law on marine investment. But this fleet turned with its efforts toward Las Palmas due to the unavailability of national ports with the necessary facilities. This situation has resulted in significant economic ramifications, of which it is enough to mention the ordinary operation costs which are estimated at 200 million dirhams annually and of which the national economy is deprived. This sum is enough to make us understand the meaning of "restoring" our present fleet for high-seas fishing.

Toward this end, the construction of some essential facilities have been started, including refrigeration facilities within the Agadir Port complex, and the construction of a complex at Tan-Tan Port consisting of a cold storage unit with a capacity of 5,000 tons, a fish processing plant and marine workshops to repair fishing boats. These shops will include, among other things, a boat crane with a capacity of 1,000 tons. This is in addition to two warehouses being built by the Ministry in Agadir and Tan-Tan.

It is expected that some Moroccan boats will start unloading their catch in Agadir Port instead of Las Palmas as of the beginning of next year.

Besides the ordinary operation costs--costs in hard currency--which the transfer of the activities of these boats will save, this transfer will have important economic and social results.

(3) Vocational Training: According to the expectations, a total of 540 cadres will graduate by the end of the season in the fishing and mechanics specializations and various other technical specializations. These cadres are distributed as follows: 185 graduates from the Higher Marine Studies Institute, 85 graduates from the Agadir Vocational Marine School, 35 graduates

from the Safi Vocational Marine School and 35 graduates from Alhoceima Vocational Marine School.

It is also expected that 200 sailors with no previous marine education will be trained in various specializations.

Because the use of foreign sailors paid in hard currency by the high-seas fishing boats saddles the Moroccan fleet with exorbitant costs and diminishes its role in providing work opportunities for Moroccan citizens, the ministry has set it as its goal to Moroccanize the fleet crews gradually so that the Moroccanization may be completed by 1990.

(4) Providing a cold storage network: A sum of 18 million dirhams is allocated in 1983 to build a cold storage in Tan-Tan with a capacity of 2,000 tons which will make it possible to store the catch unloaded at the port and to preserve its quality so as to insure supplying the domestic markets with sea products.

The refrigeration network is of maximum importance because it is a fundamental link in receiving the production of the high seas fleet and in insuring a constant, not just seasonal, supply to the preservation plants and in enhancing the level of national consumption.

(5) Modernizing the fleet and assisting the cooperatives: Within the framework of following up on the operations begun in the current year as part of the continuous efforts to modernize the conventional fleet and to insure supplying the various plants that process sea products, the National Ocean Fisheries Bureau will continue the following operations in 1983:

Fitting the coastal fishing boats with electronic equipment to detect fish schools and with mechanical net cranes.

Distributing plastic containers to the conventional boats in order to preserve the good quality of the production.

Assisting fishing boat owners to fit their boats with motors by allocating 3,000 dirhams for every new motor.

Strengthening the existing cooperatives by supplying them with modern boats and trucks to market their products under the best conditions and encouraging the formation of new cooperatives.

(6) Allocating five million dirhams to equip the Scientific Marine Fishing Institute with a second research boat to continue the studies on all the kinds of fish that form our fish wealth and to lead fishermen to sites where fish schools exist. This operation comes as part of the task of evaluating our marine wealth and of controlling and organizing the utilization level scientifically, especially after the creation of a free economic zone extending over 200 miles [presumably meaning territorial waters] and since the completion of the unity of our soil in the south has added a coastal area of 1.1 million square kilometers.

(7) Allocating two million dirhams to repair a number of fish markets and to build new markets in some fishing centers to insure a better marketing of sea products throughout the domestic market.

(8) Allocating one million dirhams to enable the Scientific Marine Fishing Institute to fit its private laboratories with applied research [equipment].

(9) Allocating two million dirhams as Morocco's contribution to the scientific research agreement concluded with the U.N. Development Program and the FAO.

8494

CSO: 4504/243

INDIAN FIRM SIGNS CONTRACT FOR SULPHURIC ACID PLANT

Kuwait ARAB OIL in English No 3, Mar 83 p 35

[Text] A 2.2 million dollar contract for a sulphuric acid plant signed recently heralds the beginning of an industrial chemicals industry in Bahrain.

The new plant at Sitra will initially produce 30 tonnes a day for local market. However, the owners are looking into prospects for export in the Gulf and are also studying bi-product industries.

Simon-Carves India Limited, an engineering firm specialising in chemicals, petrochemicals and steel plants will design and build the unit and train staff. The firm has already built over 40 sulphuric acid plants in India and is affiliated with Simon Engineering of Manchester, England which recently built a 300 tonne plant to produce feedstock for the Saudi Arabian Fertiliser Company (SAFCO) in Dammam. SAFCO is presently the only sulphuric acid producer in the Gulf.

Clearance

The Bahrain plant has been cleared by the local health authorities. It will incorporate mist eliminators and other anti-pollution devices and 99.7 percent of the sulphur will be converted, the rest released from the stack.

The feedstock, sulphur, is produced in the refining process at BAPCO. It is sold to sulphuric acid plants in India and the acid for local use is imported from Europe.

Isa Abdulla Moosa, founder of the company says his product will be at least 30 percent cheaper. About 28 tonnes of acid will be sold for use in water desalination plants and the rest will be turned into car battery acid in a nearby small plant.

The project will receive five year protection from local competition.

CSO: 4400/264

DEPORTED PROFESSORS DISCUSS PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES' PROBLEMS

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic No 445, 12 Feb 83 pp 12-14

[Article: "Symposium With Three Professors Exiled From West Bank; Universities Under Military Rule; Six Universities and Colleges and 13 Middle-Level Institutes in Occupied Palestinian Territories; Final Ban on Scout Movement, Except for Jerusalem; They Have Even Confiscated Egypt's Atlas From Teacher"]

[Text] Tunisia--The universities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip represent a cultural and educational challenge to the Zionist enemy. These young universities have proven during their short life that they are a stronghold of patriotism and struggle and lighthouses of education and culture that plan the Palestinian people's cultural originality and continuity for generations to come. This is why the faculties and students of these universities have been the direct target of the Israeli military rule authorities which have devoted to them more and more measures to oppress them [Faculties and Students] and to restrict their academic freedom. Military order No 854 is the latest reflection of the Israeli oppressive actions against these universities.

Our Palestinian universities in the Bank and the Strip are, from the south to the north: The Islamic University in Gaza, Hebron University, Bethlehem University, Bir Zayt University and al-Najah University. There are also the early beginnings of a university in Jerusalem divided into the colleges: An Islamic theological college and a sciences college in Abu Dis. This university has not been completed yet. In addition to these universities, there are 13 middle-level educational institutes, including the Technology Institute, the Arts Institute and the Nursing Institute.

These universities have dictated their academic law through the Higher Education Council which is not recognized by the occupation authorities. They have also presented their educational curricula to the Arab Universities Congress which has recognized these universities and has entitled every graduate of the Palestinian universities to continue his higher studies in any of the Arab universities. The Palestinian universities are tied by academic relations to the international universities. The academic legitimacy enjoyed by the occupied territories' universities has come as a result of efforts and sacrifices. Their curricula are compatible with the

curricula taught at the Arab and world universities. These universities have 600 faculty members and more than 10,000 students. The student numbers are rising at the rate of 40 percent annually.

FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH has interviewed Dr Yusuf 'Abd al-Haqq, the head of al-Najah University economics section; Dr Ahmad Qara'in, the professor of Arabic at Bir Zayt University; and Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi, the geography professor at al-Najah National University in Nabulus. They are among 40 university professors deported by the occupation authorities for refusing to sign a statement condemning the PLO.

The three professors have come to Tunisia within the framework of a tour involving Libya, Tunisia and Sudan to explain the danger of deportation of the university professors to the educational situation. They also seek to contact the Arab officials and universities in order that they may bolster the occupied territories' universities with professors, grants and academic relations.

To provide a picture of the university education conditions, FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH has presented to the three professors a number of questions in the form of a symposium covering important aspects of the educational issue and of the forms of confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

Suppressing Demonstration Movement

[Question] Our people's cultural battle is a fundamental aspect of the struggle against our Zionist enemy. Our cultural and our educational institutions in the occupied territories are subjected by the Israeli occupation authorities to a ferocious cultural assault and sabotage. What are the aspects of this assault?

[Dr Yusuf 'Abd al-Haqq] If I may clarify the issue, I would say that there are numerous aspects of this assault. The first aspect is at the general cultural level in the occupied territories and affects the press, the theater and the clubs. This aspect has been evident in imposing house arrest on press editors and military censorship on the press and in suspending numerous papers. This aspect is also manifested in banning the circulation of a number of books and in the occupation's opposition to the demonstration movement. This is one point to which neither the Palestinian nor the Arab information has made any reference. Such activity has been banned altogether in the occupied territories, with the exception of the City of Jerusalem.

Despite harassment, the theater [departments in many campuses] have presented numerous plays. The universities are especially active in this regard and their theater groups try to present their plays outside the universities. But it is not easy to find the audience for these plays because of the imposed restrictions.

Students Developing Themselves

[Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi] The second aspect is embodied in the assault on elementary and high school education. The enemy has completely distorted the

curricula for the elementary, junior high and high school stages, especially the aspects of the curricula pertaining to the Islamic and national affairs. The enemy has omitted numerous books. When the student completes the pre-university stage and comes to the university, he does so with a completely distorted educational and cultural picture. Numerous Koran phrases, especially phrases urging struggle, and the name of Palestine have been omitted from the curricula and from Arab history.

The enemy wants this Palestinian human element to be a neglected quantity. This is why our task at the university level is a hard and difficult task. I have found from my experience that some students lack the fundamentals of the Arab homeland's political geography, of Arab history and so forth. But there are students who are aware of the policy to affect ignorance which is being practiced by the enemy. These students don't expect the curricula to give them anything and they personally engage in educational research, using more than one source and developing themselves. These are struggler students who lead the student struggle movement. But duty requires making up for whatever the other students, constituting the majority, lack. The responsibility is big and the efforts are redoubled to confront the distortion in which the occupation authorities engage. A total of 67 books have been subjected to modification and change. Even though the Arab papers issued in the occupied territories have been trying to publish what is omitted, the Israeli decisions have banned schools from teaching the students what is omitted.

They Have Confiscated Even Egypt's Atlas

Recounting an encounter which he had had with the occupation authorities, Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi said:

"Once upon my return from Cairo and upon entering the West Bank, I was stopped for inspection. I had with me an atlas of Egypt which had nothing to do with the West Bank or with Palestine. The atlas was part of the M.A. thesis I had submitted. An officer at the airport said to me: "I will not permit you to enter the occupied territories carrying these materials." I asked him to let me meet the officer in charge to discuss with him the topic of the M.A. thesis which had nothing to do with Palestine. He refused, saying: "The circulation of these maps in schools is forbidden."

'Abd al-Hadi added: "I know students who finished their high school but still cannot draw a map of the Arab homeland because the occupation authorities prevent them from learning this. As a geography instructor, I always insist that the students buy an atlas as soon as they enter the university, even if the atlas is in a foreign language. I then start teaching them, at least, how to draw the maps of the Arab homeland. I don't want the student to begin his university education without sound foundations. The process of cultural distortion in the occupied territories has clearly affected the students' academic level. This requires the students to exert huge efforts to overcome this shortcoming."

[Dr Ahmad Qara'in] The colleagues have discussed extensively the types of harassment to which our students in the occupied territories are subjected. But there is a phenomenon which must be noted, namely the compulsory transfer of high school students to the buildings of elementary schools which lack laboratories, libraries and the demonstration aids befitting their level. The enemy's goal is to keep the Palestinian student ignorant and to lower his cultural and educational level so that the universities would have to reteach him the junior high and high school curricula before they start teaching him the university level materials.

[Question] Under the shadow of this premeditated distortion of the junior high and high school curricula, the universities shoulder a heavy burden and duty in rebuilding the students' national education. What is your role and what are the possibilities of your succeeding in this task?

Arbitrary Transfer of Teachers

[Dr Yusuf 'Abd al-Haqq] Before answering, I would like to say that the pre-university level education has its much more significant problems and concerns. Imagine that the average ratio of students to teachers in the Arab environment of the occupied territories is 30:1 whereas in the Jewish environment it is 10:1 which means that the Jewish student gets one tenth the teacher's time whereas the Arab students gets 1/30 of the teacher's time.

Add to this the arbitrary transfer, harassment and dismissal of the teachers. All this takes place at the expense of the educational process. The teacher is denied stability and, consequently, the change to give his best efforts. The cases of arbitrary retirement from teaching have reached 51 cases and of arbitrary transfer 41 cases. Here, Dr Ahmad Qara'in criticized the foreign information media that have failed to devote special attention to the conditions of the schools in the Bank and the Gaza Strip, pointing out that the Teachers' Rights Committee issues good pamphlets that cover the subject and that can be used but which, alone, cannot perform the information task.

Redrawing the Homeland's Map

[Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi] So far, military directive No 854 has not been fully enforced on the universities yet. Therefore, the university educational process is still proceeding well. As we have already pointed out, the student comes to the university with an educationally distorted background. We start teaching him at the university subjects that are necessary to build up his knowledge and that are important to us because they make up for the deficiency experienced at the pre-university level. The student is, for example, taught the Palestinian issue in a clear way from its start to the present time. The geography branch teaches the geography of Palestine and the Middle East in a clear and detailed manner.

At Bir Zayt University, we have produced some good maps on the geography of Palestine with its districts, villages, valleys, mountains and subdistricts, affixing to them the Arab names and the corresponding Hebrew names with the

aim of entrenching the memory of the villages demolished by the occupation. During our field and geographic tours, whether conducted by the geography or the archeology branches, we worked to redraw the map of Palestine with our own efforts, relying on some old historical readings. We have been thus able to draw a new map pointing out the locations of our villages and towns in Palestine.

Hebrew University's "Victories"

Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi reveals some aspects of the efforts being exerted to deface Palestine's history and geography by saying:

"We met with the Hebrew University's geography department. When we asked them about the nature of their work, the department's chairman answered: "It is enough for us to change the name of a single Arab village into a Hebrew name every year. We consider this a major victory."

With the determination of a serious researcher, 'Abd al-Hadi added: "To have documents in our possession in the future, we have organized visits for student groups from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the territories occupied since 1948 and explained to the students everything we saw, telling them this village's name was such and has become since the occupation so and so, linking all the explanations to historical issues. The student is also taught Arab history and the history of all the Arab liberation movements in order to bind him to his history. Therefore, our universities in the occupied territories can be considered as lighthouses--lighthouses feared by the enemy who has tried to tame and besiege them with military directive No 854.

What Does Military Directive No 854 Mean?

[Question] You have referred repeatedly during your discussion to military directive No 854. You have been deported from the occupied Palestinian territories on the basis of a document found on this directive. Give us a summary of this directive, the said document and the circumstances under which you were deported.

[Dr Ahmad Qara'in] Military directive No 854 includes decisions issued on 6 July 1981. One of these decisions is that every university must renew for the instructors and lecturers [presumably meaning renew their work permits] annually, meaning that the occupation authorities are dealing with the university as they deal with any business!

No student from an area outside the university area is permitted to enter the university without a permit from the military governor. No graduation diploma is awarded to any student until the military governor reads the names of the graduates and issues the permit. The military governor must be familiarized with the scheduled curricula and any curriculum or program violating public order and security is banned.

This directive empowers the military authorities to prohibit any student or instructor from entering the university on the pretext of violating

the military laws. The military authorities are empowered to interfere in the content of the lectures and in the manner in which they are delivered, in the way the students go to the university and in the general behavior of the students and the instructors. Military directive No 854 subjects the university financially and administratively to the military governor directly. In other words, the directive transforms the university into one of the military establishments. This is in violation of all international laws and regulations and even in violation of the human rights charter which stipulates in article 19 the right of every man to learn and teach without any restrictions. All these decisions are attempts on the occupation's part to deprive the universities of their identity and to push them toward a goal other than the goal for which they have been established in the occupied territories.

Fighting Military Directive

[Question] What about the teaching faculties', the students' and the academicians' resistance to the military directive?

[Answer] There has been strong resistance to this directive--resistance embodied in the strikes staged by the students and the statements issued by the student councils, the councils of secretaries and the unionist councils. The issue has also been presented to the Arab Universities Federation which has supported and backed up the position of the Palestinian universities. The issue was also presented in 1980 to the UNESCO which endorsed the position of the Palestinian universities in the occupied territories and demanded that Israel abolish the directive. The matter was also raised in the same year before the international Universities Federation in Tokyo. This federation rejected the directive and demanded its abolition.

The universities in the occupied territories have also received more than 200 messages of solidarity from professors in various world universities demanding abolition of the military directive. Consequently, the occupation has been compelled to retreat a little and to decide freezing the enforcement of this military directive until the right conditions develop again.

This Is How Deportation Happened

Muhammed 'Abd al-Hadi then dealt with the conditions after suspension of military directive No 854 which controls conditions in the universities of the occupied territories as it controls the conditions in the elementary, junior high and high schools insofar as the teachers, students and curricula are concerned.

In this respect, even though the enemy backed down temporarily on his military directives, his military advance on the Lebanese arena, his blockade of Beirut and the Palestinian resistance's departure from the city have made him think that he can exploit these new circumstances to couple his military assault with a cultural assault against the universities of the occupied territories.

He has begun to implement military directive No 854, but not completely and not with a single thrust as he did in 1980.

The enemy has done this through what he calls a "certification." This certification constitutes a part of the military directive and demands a pledge that no support of any kind be given to the PLO or "any other terrorist organization." The universities have protested against this document and the protest has been coupled with the movement and protest of universities and educational institutions of many countries of the world and of the international circles. As a result, the document has been somewhat modified and amended but without changing its essence. This modification has been done by including in the document the following phrase: "Not to support the PLO or any other hostile organization." After repeated meetings by the teaching faculties, a meeting by the instructors decided to reject the amended document so that we may not permit the enemy to interfere in our academic life and our national unity.

The occupation authorities then summoned the instructors one by one and asked each of them questions concerning their names, their families, their families' places of residence and so forth. They also asked the direct question: "Do you wish to work here or not?" The unanimous answer was "yes." To this answer, the military governor said: "If you want to work here, then what do you say to this short document?" The argument would then start here with this officer on whether we undermined the security or had become politicians, not academicians, and on whether we had violated the instructions included in our work permits. The officer would again ask directly: "Are you going to sign or not?" The answer, as is well known, was always, "no."

'Abd al-Hadi added that he was summoned to this officer's office again. "This time, something new developed and we were told that our permits had expired. When we explained to the officer that our permits were valid until such and such a date, he said: As soon as your permit expires, you will carry your belongings and depart and you are completely prohibited from returning here."

Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-Hadi said: "I was summoned once and the officer in charge asked me about my permit to enter the occupied territories. I told him that the permit would expire on 13 December 1982, at which point he said: "You leave tomorrow." We went immediately to a lawyer who filed a court suit in which we stated that we had not violated any of the conditions stipulated by the permit or the conditions of our entry and asked why we should be deported. A government counselor decided to postpone the deportation until the end of the period allowed in our permits. We then returned to the military government officer to give him our permits and inform him of our wish to stay for the allowable period. But this officer answered coldly: "Soak your permit and drink its juice. [This permit is worthless]" I answered him that the legal counselor had told the lawyer that we could stay and he answered rudely: "Forget about the lawyer and the counselor. You must know that you, the professors, Hikmat al-Misri and your God are at our disposal." I answered: "The permit expires on 13 December and I will leave on the following evening." I and my colleagues were deported.

"We Will Fight, Regardless of Circumstances"

[Question] What was the number of professors included in the deportation decision and what was the nature of their presence in the occupied territories? Were they inhabitants of the occupied territories with [Israeli] identity cards or were they incoming and visiting professors?

[Dr 'Abd al-Haqq] The number of instructors deported was 40 university professors and of those instructed not to engage in teaching in the universities and waiting to be deported is nearly 80 instructors. These 120 people have permits to enter the occupied territories and some of them are delegated to teach in the occupied territories' universities in view of the universities' need for their specializations. They all signed a legal work permit. The decision also includes non-Palestinian professors who were asked to sign the said document but they acted in solidarity with their Palestinian colleagues by refusing to sign the document and were thus deported with them even though the issue does not concern them. Their position is, as you can see, is one of solidarity and of upholding right and justice. As for those who have family reunification permits or the identity card of the occupied territories, they were not included in the decision. We have considered them the weakest link among the ranks of professors of the occupied territories' universities.

Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi added: "The document is also aimed against those who have identity cards because the identity card has a column which has the passport or identity card number. This is something to which the academic circles must pay attention because our colleagues who have identity cards may be subjected to deportation in case the enemy wants to intensify his cultural assault. Here is where the importance of solidarity with our brothers in the occupied territories and their universities emerges."

[Question] The enemy came up with this idea of a document and took the measures to deport you immediately after the Beirut war. What was the reaction of the students at home to the war and how united is the student body and the teaching faculties?

[Dr Yusuf 'Abd al-Haqq] When the students learned of the enemy's intention to implement military directive No 854, they launched a campaign of solidarity with us and changed repeatedly: "You may be deported and may never return. But this does not mean the end of the university. We will fight them, regardless of the circumstances, and we cannot abandon the PLO as our representative."

This student movement is not spontaneous. The students are well organized, they have their political views and they have adopted a good position because the university belongs ultimately to the Palestinian people. There has been and there continues to be a clear cooperation between the students and the Teachers Union. With full coordination, they called for holding student conferences and moved in the street. I remember that when I was walking in Nabulus streets, even the children pointed at me saying: "The Israelis want to expel this man." It was evident that there has been great interest in

following the events. The students did not wait for a conference to decide on an action plan. They reacted to the events directly. The students have taken a truly distinguished position which forced the enemy to think twice before implementing the directive to the identity card holders. The students contacted the various universities and Jewish democratic student organizations and got a good response from them. Despite the Zionist identity of the opposition Labor Party, this party presented directly to Begin a statement opposing our deportation. The Mapam Party described the deportation as a "deplorable crime." But Begin hates the Palestinian universities that have become centers of revolutionary struggle, demonstrations and protests--centers defying the occupation's terrorism.

The PLO's position within the Palestinian universities is strong, has not been shaken, and has gained considerable support in the wake of the Beirut blockade, contrary to the expectations of Begin and his government who tried to exploit the opportunity to impose the document on us.

Before Two Options

[Question] The deportation will not mean the end of the universities and of their role. What are the steps necessary to make up for the shortage in the teaching faculties and what is the extent of the danger threatening the teaching body in case the enemy persists in its deportation scheme?

[Dr Yusuf 'Abd al-Haqq] University education will be affected in the current phase with the deportation of 40 instructors and the threat of deportation against 80 more who are in constant struggle with the Zionist movement. We shoulder a part of the pressure and burden of the struggle. The objective of the deported professors committee is, as my colleague Muhammad has noted, to protect the West Bank universities from the occupation's escalating intervention. A part of this protection comes from within and we have to secure the other part, from abroad. It is a part of a more comprehensive confrontation which concerns the fate of the people, wherever they may happen to be. After our deportation, the number of students has increased in every class and the number of hours taught by the instructors has also increased. We must continue our battle as deported instructors. Instructor deportation is an ongoing crime. As long as we are in the stage of struggle and as long as Israwl persists in this crime, then our task is to force them to life their hands off the academic liberties and to put a stop to their uncivilized actions. We will continue our struggle to expose their actions and to reaffirm before the world our right to our academic freedom.

Professor 'Abd al-Haqq stressed an important point, namely: "We will not relinquish our academic liberties. If the occupation puts us before the two options of either using the universities to distort the Palestinian national culture or closing these universities, then we will take the second option."

He added: "But I stress that our people and our students have the determination and the resolution to enable us to overcome this option. If we want our battle to succeed, then the enemy must be [forced] to back down on his serious and rash policy."

8494

CSO: 4404/282

ARMS DEALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ENCOURAGED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Jan 83 p 5

[Article by Paul Quinn-Judge]

[Text]

WHEN WE DEMONSTRATED our Galil assault rifle in the Philippines last year," said a man involved in Israeli arms sales, "we brought over the rifle's designer. First he dropped it in a tank of water. Then he rubbed it in the dirt. Then he started firing it. The Filipinos were impressed."

Then comes the punch line: "But they didn't buy anything. Our stuff is the best in the world, but at the back of people's minds is one little word: oil."

The man's counterpart in another part of Asia agrees. "We're just not selling enough, unfortunately."

Despite this modesty, the Israelis do not seem to be doing too badly. One person intimately concerned with Israeli military sales guessed that "at least" \$100 million worth of weaponry was sold, mostly in Southeast Asia last year.

Much of the modesty is, in fact, discretion, as many Asian clients are sensitive to the Israeli connection.

Military expenditures consume almost 30 per cent of Israel's annual gross national product. Last year's military budget mounted to about \$7.34 billion. The \$1 billion that it reportedly earns in foreign military sales every year helps reduce this enormous burden to their economy.

They are less willing to say exactly what they sell, at least in Asia.

"As soon as things are recognized as our products," said a salesman, "we have trouble."

Most officials involved in the business talk only about the most visible Israeli equipment in Asian armies. Among these are the Gabriel surface-to-surface missiles, which can be seen on Thai and Singaporean fast attack craft.

"Unfortunately — from a professional point of view — it was the French Exocets, not Gabriels, that sank HMS Sheffield in the Falklands war. That might damage our market a little."

The Israelis have also sold the Shafrir air-to-air missile to at least Taiwan. This is seen as part of that country's effort to move away from total dependence on the United States.

Another visible Israeli weapon is the Uzi submachine gun, which seems to have been sold almost everywhere.

"When I went past the Thai King's palace recently," said one man involved in Israeli armaments here, "I was pleased to see that His Majesty's body guards were carrying them."

Israel has also sold Thailand some small transport aircraft. More interesting, there are reliable reports that Israel has recently provided Thailand with a number of 155mm artillery pieces, and has trained Thais in their use.

"I can't comment on that," said an official involved in Israeli defence sales. "That's not a visible item — you have to get pretty close before you can see where these guns come from."

Much of the Israeli sales in Asia seem to revolve around artillery, mortars and the ammunition for these weapons. Most deals are made in near-secrecy.

People in the arms business here hint that the Israelis are able and very willing to disguise the origin of any weapons they provide. "If they trust you — and if they are sure you're not going to allow their stuff to fall into Palestinian hands, they'll do anything for you," said one source. "They are experts at putting markings from anywhere in the world on your purchases. Don't forget, they're one of the most multilingual countries in the world."

There are other ways that Israeli weapons are distributed around the region. Singapore, for example, makes some Israeli items under licence. One Southeast Asian arms dealer complains that the Singaporeans are re-exporting some of these weapons in contravention of the licence terms. A representative of the Israeli point of view seemed less concerned.

"Frankly, sometimes we might be interested in other countries producing and selling our weapons to other countries," this gives Israeli weaponry more exposure,

perhaps many extra customers, and avoids the political difficulties that so often accompany sales direct from Israel." Israeli officials also say that they are willing to share their technical expertise with friendly countries. They have done so in Singapore, where military ad-

visers helped train and organize the armed forces between 1966-74. The Philippines is one country that some Israelis feel they could help today. The country is fighting a war against communist insurgents and Muslim separatists. "We have some experience in

handling guerrillas," said one Israeli. They would only assist, however, if a country made a formal request, the Israeli added. "We wouldn't do that sort of thing under the table." — Christian Science Monitor

CSO: 4400/237

OVEREXERTION CAUSES PHYSICAL, MOTIVATIONAL PROBLEMS IN ARMY

Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in Hebrew 9 Feb 83 pp 24-25

[Article: "Stress Related Fractures are Unnecessary"]

[Excerpts] What are stress related fractures and what causes them? How can they be treated and can they be completely cured?

Lieut Col Ze'ev explains: "A stress related fracture is caused by repeated pressure inflicted on the bone. There are two basic theories as to what causes it. According to the first, repeated shocks in the same place cause a fracture in the bone, similar to metal fatigue. This can be caused by excessive running or walking. According to the second theory, the tension of the muscles connected to the bone can make the muscles stronger than the bone. The pressure applied to the bone becomes unbalanced and causes the fracture.

"The symptoms are pain and internal localized tenderness. If one gets those symptoms he should see the unit physician who will decide whether to refer the patient to an orthopedist in order to diagnose the fracture.

Adhering to the Endurance Rules

Regarding the way of treating the fracture, Dr Ze'ev says: "When an X-ray or bone scan shows the existence of a stress fracture, we recommend four to five weeks of rest. During that time the soldier can take part in theoretical studies without doing physical work or training such as marching or running. Most stress fractures are cured during that period."

Dr Ze'ev explains how the IDF tries to prevent stress fractures during the service: "In the army physical exertion is done gradually, according to a training program which has been developed for this purpose. Even then some soldiers may have problems. They need an easier program. Infantry units offer classes in order to make soldiers aware of the problems of exertion. Whenever stress fractures occur, they are reported to the medical branch."

Dr Ze'ev points out that relatively few soldiers suffer from stress fractures. This, he believes, proves that the endurance rules are being properly observed by the IDF. He adds that if a soldier has a stress fracture and does not see a doctor, he may develop a regular fracture.

The Influence of the Physical Condition on Motivation

Elie cannot do too much walking and at times feels sharp pain. "It is not easy to leave the unit," he says. "I have excellent relations with my superiors. I am not angry at anyone personally. The fractures are internal and the treatment takes place only after long observations. To this day some people don't believe me. They think I am making it up."

Aharon Karnowitz is 19 and has served in the IDF for nine months. He is religious and has served in a religious unit. He did his basic training in the infantry, starting with a week of combat fitness at the Wingate Institute and continuing in a platoon commander course. "At Wingate we worked according to the training program," says Aharon, "but in the platoon commander course it was another story. We ran on hard surface and the training was more difficult. I started getting pains in my right thigh, as if I'd receive a strong blow. I talked to the medic and he sent me to the physician. I was given pain pills and was told that if I continued to have pain I should come back the following week.

"I continued my training. I did not want to go to the doctor, since I was afraid I might fall behind in my training if I did. As the pain increased I talked to the medic again. We were out in the field and there was no doctor around. The medic gave me a tranquilizer. When the regimental doctor came he sent me to the orthopedist who discovered a stress fracture in the thigh. The orthopedist recommended several weeks of rest."

After Aharon's fracture was diagnosed, he went to the company commander with the medical report. The latter decided to take him out of training, and Aharon had to find a way of getting back into training on his own.

He was put into an armor unit and became a tank driver. He continued to run and train, and when his pain did not stop he was sent to Tel Hashomer Hospital. It was found out that the fracture had gotten worse.

At this point he began to limp and was given three months of rest. He has been home for three months and has been undergoing physical therapy four times a week. His condition is improving. He was given an educational assignment with NAHAL recruits.

First Lieut Dr Natan was the commander of the clinic at the Golani training base, and is now serving at the recruitment base in Tel Hashomer. He says in regard to overexertion, which causes stress fractures: "The training program is designed for running and hikes, but not for additional exercises. It shows how much exertion the soldier can tolerate in a day and what the cumulative effect of stress per day is. The instructions for the training scale are given through the chain of command. The base commander instructs the company commanders who brief the platoon commanders who brief their men. Something can happen along the way—a hike can become longer because of misinformation, and the men may end up going farther than they should."

Dr Natan maintains that often the soldier himself is responsible for the aggravation of his condition. He says that soldiers want to prove themselves and do not complain about pain. Besides, some soldiers suffer emotional pain; sometimes the pain may be psychosomatic, and the emotional pain can cause physical pain.

When various units were checked for their rate of stress fractures, it was discovered that the volunteer units, in which the rate of motivation is the highest, came in first, due to the fact that soldiers kept going in spite of pain. The chief medical officer's staff emphasizes that an early diagnosis of the problem makes it easier to provide a cure and enables the soldier to return to his training program.

The Hadassah Hospital has been conducting studies to find ways to reduce stress fractures and to determine which soldiers are susceptible to such injury.

It is hoped that the results of the studies will reduce the problem which affects soldiers who are highly motivated and who choose to serve in the field units of the IDF.

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CSO: 4423/104

ARMY SELECTION PROCESS, CRITERIA, DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 83 Supplement p 10

[Article by Shlomo Mann: "Fate Is Decided in Registration and Selection Base; Each Year Thousands of Young Israelis Go Through Such Bases and at 18 Most Do Not Know that Their Fate Is Being Decided for the Next 30 Years or At Least until They Finish the Reserve Duty; Base Commander in Interview Tells How Soldiers are Placed"]

[Text] The road from civilian life to army life goes from the draft office along a 100 meter black road that ends in the entrance to the base from where one comes out with a beret and a serial number.

It takes 20 minutes from the time the bus stops next to the row of huts until the perplexed boys come out wearing khaki uniform of various sizes and a full knapsack. It starts with dental examination, followed by the famous injections, fingerprints, portrait, personal data verification, advance payment, and 1 and 1/2 hour later, receiving the military gear. Then, wearing somewhat unruly uniform and a beret that does not always fit, they come outside with a hesitant stare, check themselves and gradually begin to accept the fact that indeed they are now soldiers.

This is how the military career starts, beginning with the draft process and ending somewhere many years later, when they go back to the same base in order to give up the uniform and terminate their reserve orders for good. The registration and selection base is the gate into and out of military life. It is the base where the military future of each soldier is determined. Whether to Golani, Armor or Air Force, or perhaps a clerical job, a driver or a quartermaster. There you see the confused and frightened faces of the boys who have just been drafted. They are not yet used to their new way of life—in uniform, beret, military discipline and sleeping in tents away from home.

The big question that faces them during their three days at the base is whether they will be serving at the place on which they decided two weeks ago. Most of them know where they are heading. This one to Golani, because of his friends. This one to the Navy, because his father served in the Navy. This one wants to do office work, to be close to home. But their wish is not always fulfilled, and there are those who refuse to board the bus because it is not heading for their chosen destination.

Col Yosi Lipman, the base commander, says that the selection officer uses three criteria in making his decisions: The needs of the army, the skills and personal preference of the soldier. The best situation of course is the one that combines all three. But not everyone's skills coincide with his preference and the needs of the army. Some volunteer for the paratrooper units end up in the Military Police. Some want an easy job near home and end up far away in the Communications Corps.

We saw the following letter in the office of the base commander: "Commander, I am a soldier who came here with a strong desire to serve in a combat unit, but instead I was assigned to the chaplain's office. I am not religious, I did not go to a religious school, and besides, I have a 97 profile. I want to be a fighter, not a rabbi..." Col Lipman says this is an unusual case. The soldier was assigned that same day to a fighting unit.

"The attitude today in this base is much more humane than in the past," the commander points out. "We give serious consideration to personal preference and try to meet the soldier's request, although we do consider the needs of the army. Proper selection is our main task, and we do the maximum to take into consideration personal choice. I personally and the senior selection officers interview everyday dozens of soldiers who feel they were misplaced and are not satisfied."

Each year there is competition among the various arms of the service, each seeking to receive the best qualified soldiers. They all make great efforts in this direction, although the soldiers do not usually base their decision on those inducement efforts. Such efforts, however, provide another angle from which to view the service. The "persuasion booths" can be found on the base, representing all the field units--paratroopers, Golani, armor, artillery and engineering. Each unit sends soldiers and officers to the base in order to explain to the recruits how they operate, what their condition of service are, and their battle history. The personnel used for this task is made up of those who saw action or took part in a particular operation, and their stories are considered of value in talking to recruits.

The rate of success of those inducement efforts can be seen in a survey that was recently conducted, which shows that 20 percent of the soldiers who, for instance, visited the artillery booth, defined the visit as "considerably helpful in reaching a decision," while about the same number said that "it helped somewhat." What impresses the soldiers the most in visiting the booths is the variety of tasks, the nature of the training, the typical weapons used, the battle stories and the personal stories of commanders about their unit's and their own experience on the battlefield.

The first night on the base the soldiers are shown a movie on how to join the various units of the IDF. The next day, after talking to the selection officer, the selection process begins. Each soldier who wants to join a combat unit is immediately examined by the unit physician, who determines his physical status in relation to the demands of that unit. Even before leaving the base the soldiers see the selection officer who tries to find out if there is no last minute change of heart. The personal dimension is critical to the

selection officer, and while in the past the attitude was that the personal desire of the soldier did not matter, today the attitude is quite different.

The new attitude is also reflected in the kind of base maintenance duties assigned to the young soldiers at the base. The term "master sergeant jobs" has been erased from the local jargon. There are no more disliked jobs like whitewashing trees, painting roads, cleaning grounds or weeding. The usual discipline, punctuality, "attention," etc. still exist. But at the same time the living conditions of the new recruit are greatly improved. The base now has a club for recruits, offering lectures about the IDF, guest artists, sports, and more improvements are now being planned in the recruitment process, living quarters, showers and the selection process.

As for the girls, the base only does the recruitment process and then sends them to basic training. Their selection is done only at the end of basic training, 2-3 weeks later. Until they are ready for the selection they are given lectures on the various options open to them, and by the time they are ready for the selection they invariably know which unit they would like to join. More weight is given to the personal preference of the girls than the boys, and invariably a woman who wants to serve near home is granted her wish. The base commander says that the most popular courses among the girls are the quality ones, such as the Air Force, Navy, Intelligence and Communications, or in auxiliary jobs with field units.

The initiation of the Israeli soldier in 1983 is much better than what it used to be in the past. A middle aged reservist spoke to me with nostalgia about his own initiation—long days of waiting, accompanied by "master sergeant jobs" and reprimands, ending up in a base away from civilization. Today's soldiers are more pampered in comparison to my time, they are "chocolate soldiers."

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SECULARISTS CLAIM HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY

Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew 2 Mar 83 pp 30, 41

[Article by Dr Ya'aqov Shavit: "The Secular Zionist: ID Card; Facing Aggressive Sense of Superiority of Religious Jewry, the Secular Zionist Sees Himself as Culturally Inferior, Awaiting Redemption; At Times He Unjustifiably Accepts This Image"]

[Text] BAMAHAHE has asked me to write an article entitled "The State of Israel Seen by a Secular Zionist," which would explain "what it is like to be a secular Zionist today." The title and subtitle imply that a so-called secular Zionist, that is, a secular Israeli who feels total belonging to the Jewish nation living in the land of Israel, is someone who needs to explain himself. Either directly or implicitly, the assumption is made that being a secular Israeli Jew is something less than whole, indeed a tenuous existence.

From the standpoint of those who define themselves as nationalist religious Jews, the secular Jew suffers from inferiority in two important areas: (1) His legitimacy as member of a nation in Israel is imperfect, since he does not have a religious basis. (2) His spiritual-cultural world, hence his national identity, is shaky and even empty, since he does not have a religious faith and does not live according to religious laws.

In order to briefly answer both assumptions, one needs a historical perspective and an examination of principles and values. The creation of a national Jewish society in Israel was the result of the activities of a national Jewish movement with a land of Israel orientation, namely, Zionism. During the Hibat Zion period, many of the members of the movement and some of the immigrants of the First Aliyah were religious Jews. In subsequent years the religious nationalists continued to participate in the movement, albeit in a secondary role.

The dominant trend of the nationalist Jewish movement was to establish in the land of Israel a Hebrew-Jewish society, that is modern and secular, different in its beliefs, way of life and values from the Jewish society in the Diaspora.

This outlook replace religion with culture, whereby religion becomes only part of the general culture, not the most important part. One should recall that the struggle for modernization and secularization of the Jewish community in

Israel, that is, the struggle for developing cultural values and secular modern institutions, was a prolonged and difficult struggle. Religious Jews either willingly or by necessity learned to adjust to the process of the modernization and secularization, but were not the ones who put it in motion.

Legitimacy and Spiritual Values

The argument that the Jewish society in Israel is the result of a secular nationalist movement need not reflect the same reality in the present or in the future. Certain views, ideologies and motivations play a specific role in the course of history, and then disappear. From this standpoint, one may say (and it has been said more than once) that secular Zionism has run its course and should disappear since it is no longer a living reality. Secular Zionism, according to this argument, has created the framework (society/state), provided the material content (economic growth, political institutions etc.), but can no longer serve as a basis for Jewish nationalism and a Jewish state, hence it can not provide a positive meaning for a Jewish society and a Jewish state.

The achievements of the past, the historical right of Zionist accomplishments are not denied secular Zionism (although at times its collective unconscious is claimed to have had religious motivation). It is the right of the present and of the future that are now being denied.

Secularism today is being forced to deal with a few arguments. I shall discuss only two: What is the legitimacy (justification) of secularism in national-cultural-historical terms, and what is the unique spiritual-cultural import it embodies.

The legitimacy argument: The secular Jew derives his legitimacy for national sovereign existence in the land of Israel through Jewish history. From his own standpoint, the Bible is a historical source (validated by other sources) for the existence of the Jewish people in the land of Israel since the dawn of history. As a non-believing Jew, he cannot regard divine promise as a source of authority and justification, since to him history is man-made, and the divine promise is only an explanation and a justification given by believing Jews for their national existence, and not the reason for their national existence.

Since the secular Zionist believes in the historical fact of a sovereign and cultural national past in the land of Israel, and in the strong historical tie of the Jewish people to the land, and since he asserts that a people with a national and cultural character cannot exist without its own national territory, it follows that the only territory acceptable to that people is the place where the Jewish people have lived and worked and created during a long and important chapter of their history.

This, to the secular Zionist, is a brief and satisfactory explanation, and he does not need any religious sanction in the form of a divine promise. On the contrary, the secular Zionist knows that the divine promise to the people

of Israel is predicated on the observance of all the divine commandments by the people of Israel, and that its existence in the land of Israel is conditional, and not self-sufficient.

The secular Zionist, then, does not need--not for himself and not for others--religious legitimacy. The religious Jew who may ask him the provocative question, "What are you doing in the land of Israel if you do not believe in the promise that the God of Israel gave to the people of Israel that land?" or, "A Jew like you can live anywhere in the world," such a religious Jew will receive the answer, "I live in the land of Israel as a member of a national Jewish society which has developed in the national homeland of the Jewish people. Such a national society can only exist in the land of Israel. One can be a believing Jew anywhere. A national Jew, living in a national Jewish society, can only live in Israel."

The secularist will add that, in his opinion, a modern secular national society cannot be based on religious legitimacy, since the character and values of such a society contradict the values and legitimacy of religion. Moreover, it is the religious, rather than the secular legitimacy, which make national existence temporary, conditional and unstable. From this standpoint, it is necessary to say that a secular nationalist Jew who bases his national, political and territorial arguments on religious legitimacy and assertions (the sanctity of the land, divine promise, religious link, etc.), but does not observe the commandments or follows religious norms, is having double standards and only chooses that part of the religious tradition which suits him. In fact, he only chooses the part which lends legitimacy to his own patently secular nationalist view.

The spiritual-cultural argument: The argument about the weakness of the legitimacy of secular cultural and historical standpoint leads to another argument, directed at the secular nationalist Jew, namely, the shallowness of his spiritual and cultural character, or, the argument that without religious legitimacy and values, Jewish culture cannot exist. The secular Zionist does not believe in the values of religion, does not keep the traditions and does not observe the commandments, hence he is not a true Jew and needs to be reformed, while the religious Jew is a true Jew, who has combined religion and nationality (or religion and country) in the most perfect way.

To Regain Self-confidence

From this standpoint, a secular society is seen as a shallow society that must be reformed. This reformation will come in time, and will come from the religious elements of the society. The aggressiveness of the secular Jew toward the believing Jews has disappeared over the years. In its place we now have an aggressiveness mixed with a sense of superiority and condescension on the religious Jew toward the secular Jew.

Secular Zionism, according to this outlook, raises questions without sufficient answers. Only religious Zionism (or Zionist religionism) can give a clear cut answer, settle arguments, create a man and a society at peace with themselves.

In short, it is not possible to be a secular Jew in our time in the land of Israel, and a secular Jewish existence is, at best, a step on the way to full personal and national fulfillment.

The secular Jew is thus being asked to regard himself as "defective" and in need of reforming. At times, in a moment of weakness or in the belief that his arguments are weak and insufficient, he is willing to adopt this image imputed to him by the religionist, and looks to reform himself by looking for religious reasons for national needs and by accepting certain parts of the religious Jewish tradition.

The secular Zionist in our time has lost in many instances his self-confidence, his belief in his right cause and his historical task, and has become apologetic.

And now I return to the question--what does it mean to be a secular Zionist today.

It means believing in the history of the people of Israel and their tie to the land of Israel in every way.

It means believing that the goal of the Jewish nationalist movement is to establish a nationalist Jewish society in the land of Israel, which is basically a modern secular Jewish society (with room for free and legitimate existence of religious Jews).

A nationalist Jewish society is a society of Jews and for Jews in the land of Israel, which develops a Hebrew culture, that is, a culture based on the Hebrew language.

This culture is based on the Jewish cultural heritage as well as other cultural heritage and combines them into a new Hebrew culture.

The fact that this culture is being developed in the land of Israel and is shaped by the society in which I live and am part of, gives me the feeling of belonging and identity which I cannot find anywhere else. This belonging, tie and identity are not provided by religious values or norms, but by the complex fabric called national culture. This culture is still being formed, since the creation of a culture is a long historical process which never ends.

It is my will and choice to be part of this culture in all its forms and to take part in its formation. My feeling that I am an inseparable part of this culture, and that in any other culture I would be a stranger, is my legitimacy which in effect enables me to give up any other legitimacy.

As a secular Zionist I know that the existence of a modern national society means many tensions among conflicting values. But I consider those conflicts an inseparable part of my world, and I do not wish to escape from them and find refuge in another spiritual-cultural world which considers itself whole or reformed and which I consider insufficient and defective, just as it considers my own world insufficient and defective.

I do not know to what extent I have answered the question—what does it mean to be a secular Jew today? What I have tried to do was to explain what is the legitimacy of being "a secular nationalist Zionist today." The reason being, perhaps, that the search for legitimacy (justification), is the central theme in any Zionist ideology, and in this sense, at least, the religious Zionist Jew is not different from the secular Zionist Jew.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES AT DEAD SEA WORKS

Jerusalem ISRAEL BUSINESS in English No 377, Jan 83 pp 9, 10

[Text]

Sdom — In spite of weak demand for potash in the world market, the Dead Sea Works are continuing their long range development program. In existence since the early 1950s, total investment in the plant's fixed assets during the last thirty years amounts to some \$670m.

The Dead Sea Works' productive capacity has been increased steadily over the years. When it first began operations, in 1952, its annual output was only 140,000 tons, but has now reached 1.6 million tons annually, and is expected to grow to 2.1 million tons a year by the end of 1983.

Recent investments — about \$90m. in a just completed plant, and another \$90m. in an addition scheduled to be completed within a year — focus on greatly enhanced energy economy. Both new installations are based on the "cold crystallization" process, developed by the company's own experts in order to reduce dependence on imported oil, as well as lowering production costs.

Another major project, now in the planning stage, is an 18 km (about 11 mile) conveyor belt, which will carry potash from the plant 400 meters below sea level to the railhead in the Judean Desert. This will reduce transportation costs sharply; now potash is moved from the plant by heavy trucks, which have to toil up the difficult slope at great expense.

International economic problems have caused demand for farm chemicals to decline in the last year or two, and many firms in this field in other countries have found it necessary to cut back their production. That is not the case at the Dead Sea Works, where sales expanded, in quantitative terms, even during the difficult last two years.

To a certain extent, such achievements are the result of the company's standing policy to sell as much as possible on the basis of long term supply

contracts. About half of its sales are based on agreements that have between three and ten years to run, which makes speculative short term profits impossible, when prices boom, but assures stable production even when demand softens. Sales totaled \$192m. in 1981 and may have exceeded that somewhat in 1982.

In spite of slumping world market prices, operations have been profitable. Until 1970 the company operated in the red, but since then its after tax earnings have amounted to an impressive total of \$180m.

CSO: 4400/237

INDUSTRIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION ENCOURAGED

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 82 p 17

[Article by Wladimir Struminski]

[Text]

Energy conservation has been neglected in Israel, and despite the great hidden potential for increased efficiency in the utilization of energy, it has been slow work indeed to convince this country's enterprises of the subject's importance. Most firms are not interested in investing money and effort in energy-saving procedures.

According to Uri Drimer, the Manager of the Bureau for Energy Conservation in the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, only a small portion of Israel's companies exploit the grants and loans the Ministry provides to encourage energy conservation. At present the Bureau deals with only about 300 firms.

Drimer takes this to be an indication of the inactivity of the rest of the firms, as it is most unlikely that a company investing substantial sums in improving its energy efficiency would fail to take advantage of the government aid to which it is entitled. To date, only about 280 firms and institutions have exploited the Bureau's assistance, though this has been available for two years now.

The figures concerning the Bureau's activities show that the encouragement of energy conservation is only at the beginning of the road. In fiscal 1981, the Bureau granted IS 10 million to firms and institutions, and made loans of IS 46 million. It is estimated that the energy savings deriving from this investment will amount to \$4.5 million by the end of 1982, which is equal to only 1% of the industrial energy demand for the year.

Learning for the Future

Drimer says that in weighing the results of the incentives given to encourage energy conservation one must take note of three things: first, the Bureau has been in operation for only two years, which is

the characteristic period of return for investments in this field. Consequently, a number of projects have not yet had enough time to bear fruit. Second, the Bureau is not the only official body which encourages energy conservation. The Ministry of Trade and Commerce is also in the picture, as it supports energy-saving projects in the framework of the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investment. Third, the experience which has already been amassed allows us to distinguish the main lines of development of energy efficiency, and to reach conclusions concerning the required changes in the managerial framework.

Of the 280 projects implemented with the aid of the Bureau, 20 are "model installations". These are projects using new techniques which, though they have proved their worth overseas, have not yet been tried in Israel. The support for such projects is set at 30% of the total investment, rather than the usual 15%.

Energy conservation projects fall into four basic categories:

- **Energy Management.** Computerized systems for managing energy consumption - for example, devices which time and ration the use of fuel and electricity for heating - are coming to be accepted in hotels, kibbutzim and office buildings. The systems dispense optimal "doses" of energy to the various points of consumption, such as workrooms (to maintain the correct temperature) or conference halls (activating heating or air-conditioning before the conference begins and turning it off immediately afterwards).

Energy management systems cost between \$20,000-\$100,000, according to capacity and level of sophistication. About 20 producers, among them four Israeli firms, are now supplying the local market with such systems. Among the firms and

institutions which have bought, or intend to buy, energy management systems are the Tel Aviv Museum, the Tel Aviv Municipal Library, the Customs Division at Ben-Gurion Airport, Israel Aircraft Industries, the factories of Sha'ar HaNegev, Beit Clal and Migdal Insurance.

● **Exploiting Waste.** Waste products, particularly waste heat, are another promising source of energy. Israel now boasts a large number of projects in this field which are in an advanced stage of planning or installation. One such project will yield annual savings of 12-15 thousand tons of fuel (\$2.4-\$3.0 million). The savings of this project will be comparable to the sum of what has so far been achieved in

all the other projects carried out under the Bureau's sponsorship. This demonstrates that energy-conserving efforts are still in a very early stage of development, otherwise a single such project could not have such great effect on total savings.

Another project, which qualifies as a model installation, will save the Ashdod oil refineries 3,500 tons of fuel a year by using the waste heat in exhaust gases.

Ashkelon's Deco factory employs a pre-heating system to dehydrate vegetables more efficiently. This system warms air with waste heat before raising it to its final temperature with external sources of energy, reducing energy consumption by about 10%.

CSO: 4400/235

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM DEVELOPED BASED ON ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINT

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 83 p 12

[Article: "Israeli Invention--Opening Door by Identifying Fingerprint; Israeli Scientists Have Developed a Way of Preventing Unwanted People from Entering Secret Installations; Invention Shown at Seminar in Jerusalem on International Terrorism and Its Implications"]

[Text] A revolutionary Israeli invention, protecting entry into secret installations and preventing strangers from entering them through identifying the fingerprint of the entering person, is being shown for the first time at a seminar on International Terrorism and Its Implications. The seminar, taking place in Jerusalem, is attended by security officials and experts on security from 16 countries.

"Your finger, and your finger alone, is your key," is the slogan of 15 young Israeli scientists who have developed the invention, which has been arousing interest among governments and military staffs, including the U.S. Pentagon, as well as institutions working with secret materials or those that store expensive items in safes and security facilities.

The invention, resulting from the joint efforts of immigrant scientists, mostly from France, and native Israelis, can open doors leading to secure areas for those people whose fingerprints are kept in a new sophisticated device. When the finger is pointed at the optic lock, the device compares it to what is stored in its memory, and only if the two match the door opens.

Unlike the most sophisticated security means used today around the world, the Israeli invention makes it impossible that the security system fall in the hands of strangers. It is always in the possession of its owner.

Blonder, the manager of the Alda company which has been formed to develop the invention, says it began five years ago, when the Israeli scientists first started working on it. Financing was obtained from a Germany company which was interested in the invention. This company has already installed a "finger key" at the entrance to a nuclear reactor in Germany. Blonder adds that all the components are made in Israel, some by his own company in Merkaz Sapir at Giv'at Shaul in Jerusalem.

The device costs about \$10,000.

The invention is the result of the knowhow, idea, planning and development of each one of the scientists, who include experts in optics, electronics, computers, precision mechanics and telecommunications. They all worked together in one place until they completed the invention, which represents a new record of reliability in security identification.

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OPTICAL MONITOR ENHANCES FUEL ECONOMY

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Jan 83 p 32

[Text]

Proper fuel/air mixtures will be maintained in combustion systems, and those systems' efficiency enhanced, by a new optical monitor developed at the Technion. This project, conducted by a team of researchers headed by Dr. Anatoly Man and Prof. Arthur Stotter, in cooperation with Electra (Israel) Ltd., brings important benefits in terms of fuel economy and pollution prevention. It may also be able to reduce the basic investment required for the installation of some heating systems.

Large boilers in power plants and aboard ships usually operate near their peak efficiency. Adequately trained personnel are always in attendance, to make certain the fuel is appropriately mixed with just the right volume of air, to assure its complete combustion.

That, however, is not the case in most smaller installations, such as operate in many industrial plants and in apartment house space heating systems. There, fuel/air mixtures often vary greatly from the re-

quired norm, reducing the output of heat while increasing the emission of pollutants. As designers know that those furnaces are likely to operate far below their rated peak efficiency, they usually specify more than ample reserve capacity - a fact which increases their capital cost by a significant margin.

The monitor now developed at the Technion "looks" at each drop of fuel, measures its size and velocity, and assesses the distribution of those droplets in the mixture. It can be made to "tune" fuel and air flow controls automatically and continuously, in order to maintain the mixture at the optimal level.

Development has so far been limited to a monitor for small and medium stationary burners. However, Dr. Man and his associates say there will be little difficulty in adapting the same device to internal combustion engines, both gasoline and diesel-fueled, in order to conserve fuel and reduce air pollution. ■

CSO: 4400/235

INSTITUTE ASSISTS INVENTORS, ENCOURAGES INNOVATION

Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Dec 82 p 16

[Article by Gordon Schiffman]

[Text]

MEITAR Makhon Yisraeli l'Tipul b'Rayonot (The Israel Institute of Innovation) is the only institution in Israel which assists private inventors. Founded by a group of scientists from the Russian immigrant community, the government-sponsored institution has conducted feasibility studies of over 1,000 innovations in its four years of activity and holds 15% of all the patents taken out in Israel during that period.

Eighteen inventions have been transformed into mainline production items and processes by Israeli companies. A further six have even resulted in the construction of new factories, the products of which range from digital color display systems to card-activated mechanical locks and fire-resistant polymers for protecting inflammable and explosive goods. Each of these inventions was included in its initial project and development plan. MEITAR, with an initial budget of only \$200,000, has completed 200 research and development projects on its own account, which subsequently obtained outside financial backing. These success stories provide the basis for 30 more factories.

MEITAR has become Israel's largest reservoir of innovative technological activity. It has become a high-potential activity with a minimum of risk. This continues to attract investment from the private sector, and the institute is the mainstay of many of the country's high-tech companies. It is a place where ideas are born, and where they are nurtured and developed into a reality.

One example of its most prominent projects is the development of a supply system for aircraft, which greatly lowers the cost of production. This was developed by an American-born engineer who had previously designed the Soviet supply system for the Soviet Union. The system is now being used by the Israeli Air Force.

able for investment. Again, through MEITAR, Israel now benefits from the vast research and development work which its Soviet immigrants undertook in the USSR, particularly in the fields of electronics, medicine and food technology. Because of the prejudice against Russian immigrants, which derives from their being the newest identifiable group in contemporary Israel, even the most successful scientists among them often have difficulty in finding an outlet for their talents. MEITAR is working almost alone to help them put their expertise to good use.

With its proven success in the field of R & D investment, MEITAR is able to provide a service to businessmen wishing to invest in new projects. Investors seeking to minimize risk naturally seek an R & D project within their own field, in order to be better placed to judge the venture's feasibility. Those seeking a good risk must turn to experts who are fully cognisant of the market and the latest technological developments. This is where MEITAR goes to work.

Not only does MEITAR serve as a source of projects, it helps generate ideas for such projects. This is based on a methodological system evolved by Prof. Israel Averbuch, the Institute's president. His approach consists of three basic elements: first, dynamic contact with the market from an idea's inception through the marketing stage; second, ready availability of experimental and laboratory facilities; and third, ready availability of experimental and laboratory facilities obtained by goodwill with Israel's industrial and research institutions; third and most important, a readily available corps of specialists to cover every branch of industry but not limited to experts from a single field.

The variety of this interdisciplinary approach is one of the main reasons for its success.

when METAR was approached by the Dead Sea Bromine Works to develop an energy-saving project. Although the team which was recruited consisted largely of thermodynamics specialists, the eventual idea for the project came from an electronics expert within the group. Thus, from the original sum of \$10,000 provided for the project, the Dead Sea Bromine Works now stands to save \$5 million a year in energy costs. It need hardly be added that the small size and intimacy of Israel is ideal for rapidly convening a team of specialists for this type of work.

Although the cost effectiveness of the Dead Sea Bromine Works energy-saving project is an extreme case in point, the Institute's idea generating system, combined with its bank of readily available projects, does constitute a unique R&D development service. If the investor does not have a particular project in mind, he can ask METAR to provide a choice of ideas within his field of interest. A good example occurred in 1981 when Koortrade, Israel's largest industrial con-

glomerate, commissioned METAR to supply it with ideas for new high-profit products.

Out of the 15 suggestions which it received, Koor within one year transformed three into marketable products. These are: a diesel generator cheaper and little more than half the size of existing counterparts; an electronic pick-up head for reading coded information on items such as checks and credit cards; and a long-life accumulator for cars.

METAR is thus a tempting tax-deductible outlet for foreign investors. If a sum of \$1 million is invested for a year, just 10% of the interest obtained for that year is sufficient to generate an idea for a viable project. METAR itself, using Israeli government funds, provides 50% of the money necessary for the generation of the idea. This in turn is acceptable to the government because of the long-term benefit to the economy. At the end of one year, the investor will be presented with a suitable idea for a project and has the option of investing the remaining 90% of his money into the project itself.

CS0: 4400/235

ROBOTICS LABORATORY ESTABLISHED AT TECHNION

Jerusalem INNOVATION in English No 86, Jan 83 pp 3, 4

[Text]

Haifa - The concentrated effort, now under way at the Technion, to establish a large and growing robotics laboratory, can be of significant long term importance for Israel's economy. This new technology, only recently introduced to the most advanced industrial powers and still almost unknown in many others, will gain importance with every passing year. For Israel its mastery can be a key to continued industrial and economic growth.

The new Robotics Laboratory, now being developed at the Technion, is part of that institution's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. On the one hand, it will help introduce robot technology to Israel by providing specialized training for engineering students; on the other, it will be a focus of research projects, many of them to be carried out in cooperation with Israel manufacturing firms and supported by the Office of the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry.

More than a dozen research projects on robotics subjects are now in progress in this country, including those carried out by Technion faculty and students. Of the latter, at least two already have been completed: one of them a highly innovative sensitive gripper, which can hold fragile parts firmly, but safely, (see INNOVATION 80, Jan 1982) and the other a sensor that will be able to locate openings in holes in order to insert parts into them in the course of assembly operations. Several other projects are now in progress or in preparation, including an optical sensor for tracking, the interaction between robot navigators and their control systems, a learning system for an intelligent robot equipped with several sensors, and several more.

The head of the Robotics Laboratory, Prof. Yoram Koren, hopes that these researchers could profitably focus their interest on a problem area, to

which apparently not enough attention is being devoted elsewhere. This is the interface between the robot's manipulator arms and hands, and between the computer that controls their movements. That relationship is troubled by serious, as yet inadequately understood problems -- a state of affairs that justifies extensive interdisciplinary research, in which the skills of computer scientists, mathematicians and mechanical engineers will be fully employed.

The Technion robotics program complements efforts already under way among Israeli manufacturers. The Chief Scientist's Office, in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, recently announced that it had already approved \$20m. worth of robotics R&D projects, now being carried out by ten industrial firms throughout the country. One of those projects aims at the development of a practical welding robot; others propose to build systems capable of running machine tools, of polishing gem stones, of operating sewing machines and farm tractors, and of picking fruit from trees in the orchard. Also related to this area are the efforts of business firms here, which now actively develop computer aided design/computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) systems for a large variety of production processes.

The almost universal agreement -- in government, industry and institutes of higher education -- that a crash program in this field is now in order, is based on confidence in the skills of Israel innovators, and on an understanding of the country's needs. The robot industry, now only taking its first strides here, may well become one of the economy's leading exporters -- within fewer years than even the visionaries now dare to hope.

ROBOTICS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT NOTED

Jerusalem. THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Jan 83 p 13

[Text]

Robots have been targeted as a special growth area by the OCS, the Chief Scientist (OCS). According to Chief Scientist Prof. Arieh Lavie, Israel is an ideal place for the development of a robotics industry. And, he believes, there is no reason for concern over the question of whether Israel is far behind other industry leaders.

Lavie illustrates his belief by citing developments in Europe, Japan and the US: "In the US there are over 100 robot manufacturers but only a handful have actually developed robots of any real significance. And these producers are currently waiting for the economy to improve before entering the market in full force." Speaking recently at a meeting held for the founding of the Israeli chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Lavie explained that "with almost 14% unemployment, a robot that may replace 60 or even 6 workers is the last thing an employer wants to consider now," he continues, "the European manufacturers had an early start because of the oil crisis due to the slump in the economy. Japan is currently the acknowledged leader in robot use and manufacture, having exported \$160 million in 1981. Japan hopes to export \$1 billion by 1985."

...the government's efforts to attract investment funds and the increasing number of small and medium-sized firms in the country...

industry will quickly take off in this direction.

"We believe Israel has the necessary pre-requisites to enter this field, such as knowhow in electronics, control theory, computer software and hardware and image processing," says Lavie. "In addition, we have a size advantage since the short lines of communication facilitate interaction among workers from different disciplines."

Lavie feels Israel has the trained manpower needed to excel in this science-intensive field. The strong connections which link industry, government and academia are another Israeli plus. The OCS has recently begun actively encouraging work in the robotics area through R & D grants. Projects currently funded by the OCS include Elco's arc-welding robot, Sharnoa's general purpose robot, Optrotek's robot for examination of PCBs, Compulite's gem polishing robot, Beta's robot for sewing sport shoes and clothing, and Granot's fruit-picking robot.

Lavie believes Israel can successfully compete with the US and Japanese giants in two main areas: "clever robots with multiple senses, and robots for use in agriculture." He also believes that many innovations from the defense industry will find their way into the civilian market and play an important role in Israel's robotics industry. ■

NEW MODEL DRONE DESCRIBED

Jerusalem INNOVATION in English No 86, Jan 83 pp 6, 7

[Text]

Tel Aviv — In response to denigrating remarks, quoted in a leading U.S. publication, Tadiran recently made public some of the specifications of its Mastiff Mark III, latest in a series of remote controlled miniature aircraft developed and manufactured by the company. Partly owned by General Telephone and Electronics, Tadiran is one of Israel's most important electronics firms and a large exporter, mainly of communications systems.

It is generally believed that Israel's armed forces make extensive use of pilotless aircraft, such as Tadiran's Mastiff. Although little information on these drones' combat experience has been made available from official sources, the press, as well as independent observers here and abroad give them much of the credit for Israel's repeated destruction of Soviet built, Syrian operated anti-aircraft missile batteries.

According to Tadiran spokesmen, the Mastiff III is about 10 ft long, and has a wingspan of more than 14 ft. It has a pusher propeller, run by a 22 HP engine, which gives it a top speed of 80 knots, the equivalent of about 145 km/h. It can stay aloft for up to six hours at a time.

The craft can carry a 30 kg (about 66 lbs) payload — as a rule an electronically controlled TV camera. This viewing system can be aimed, zoomed and otherwise directed by the craft's remote controller, who is always fully informed of the unit's precise location. Information is constantly relayed back to base: surveillance of areas far behind enemy lines can be maintained on a "real time" basis.

The Mastiff III can be launched almost anywhere from its truckborne catapult; it is recovered by landing on almost any level piece of ground. Its practical operating radius — about 100 km (app. 60 miles) — is determined by the range of its remote

control system. Now that can be extended, through the use of a newly developed portable control station, which relays communications between the plane and its base.

Tadiran proudly claims to have been the first, anywhere in the world, to have built such practical intelligence gathering drones. Its Mastiff I was first placed on the market seven years ago, and intensive R&D has been in progress since then to continue improving the system and to expand its capabilities.

CSO: 4400/236

INVESTMENTS IN INDUSTRIES BEYOND 'GREEN LINE' APPROVED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 83 p 11

[Article: "New Industrial Investments beyond 'Green Line' Approved, as well as Kibbutz Industries Investments"]

[Text] The Investment Center Authority has approved during its last session new investment plans totalling \$1 billion. This includes investments beyond the "green line" and in kibbutz industries.

The center director, Yehoshua Porer, said that one-third of the amount is earmarked for investment in new projects and two-thirds for existing projects.

Some of the projects for which funds have been approved are:

A project for manufacturing direct current electric motors at kibbutz Mrom Hagolan which will receive 79.5 million shekels. The company will buy the knowhow from a German company. Most of the sales are for export to the U.S., Germany, South Africa, Australia and Japan. The company will employ 30 workers.

A project for processing metal at Vered Yeriho will receive 9.5 million shekels. The project makes precision tools and parts for machines. It is being developed by two experts with the help of the Jewish Agency's Company for Industries in Settlements.

A project for manufacturing electronic control systems will receive 1.8 million shekels. It will be established at the industrial zone in Ariel and employ 10 local workers.

A project for metal processing at Qedumim will receive 6 million shekels. The project has orders from several industries.

A dairy at Qatzrin will receive 92 million shekels. It will occupy an area of 20 dunams and will be owned by Strauss, Tara and moshav Nov.

A project for recycling agricultural waste at Yagur will receive 4.5 million shekels. The project solves ecological problems. The waste can be used to make biogas, a source of energy replacing crude oil and gas, as growing material for plants and organic fertilizer, and as feed for animals.

A project for growing house plants at Qarne Shomron will receive 5.8 million shekels. The center decided to grant it recommended project status if 60 percent of the production goes for export.

Some 18.5 million shekels were approved for expanding the Kabir project at kibbutz Kabri. The project makes non-iron precision casting.

Some 35 million shekels were approved for expanding the Pelram project at kibbutz Ramat Yohanan, which makes sheets of thermoplastic materials. The project employs 60 workers, and the investment is intended mainly for the production of polycarbonate sheets, a new product sought after in Israel and abroad.

Some 10.25 million shekels were approved for expanding the project at Kiriat Weizman in Rehovot which develops and manufactures artificial limbs.

The Vishai Israel project in Holon will invest 24 million shekels in buying additional equipment in order to increase production and decrease dependency on imports. The new equipment will also enable the project to better compete in the exports market.

9565

CSD: 4423/108

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN WEST BANK, GAZA DESCRIBED

Jerusalem AL-'AWDAH in Arabic No 4, 1 Jan 83 pp 26-34

[Article by 'Abd al-Karim Samarah: "What Is Needed and What Is Possible in Housing Projects; Reasoning Comes too Late; Who Is Beneficiary and Who Is Deprived"]

[Text] Housing Concept:

Social life, with its complications and developments, produces problems and issues that require urgent and rapid solutions. If they are left unchecked, it becomes difficult to control them. We in this country, like other people of the world, are growing and developing, our numbers are rising constantly and we are facing numerous problems, including the problems of housing and of getting a house.

Marriages are, thank God, increasing and new families are coming into existence with the speed of lightning. These families need new houses and this situation requires a rapid solution.

It is natural that new construction is the ideal solution to meet the rising needs. Here emerges a question, namely: Can everyone who needs a dwelling build a new house? Rather, can he rent a house? The answer is, of course, no. The income level qualifies only a small segment of the citizens to build a new house or to rent one. A new house costs more than 20,000 dinars, excluding the land. The average rent has exceeded 50 dinars [monthly] in the West Bank cities. Landlords make it conditional that payment be in Jordanian dinars, regardless of whether the tenant gets paid in shekels, in dinars or in Deutschemarks.

This group of landlords protest, moreover, against the law which prevents them from raising their rent and believe that they are being done an injustice. Perhaps!

Let us take the other, and socially broader, group. This is the group that is compelled to look for a house consisting of one or two rooms to squeeze itself into. It needs more than any other group to get a house for a reasonable rent or to take occupancy of a house. We would like to note here the following statistics which show the number of individuals per room and per housing unit in the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

<u>Persons Per Room</u>	<u>West Bank Percentage</u>	<u>Gaza Strip Percentage</u>
Less Than 1	5 percent	3.9 percent
1	8.3 percent	8.2 percent
1.1-1.9	15.6 percent	15.1 percent
2-3.9	26.4 percent	30.5 percent
3-3.9	19.4 percent	20.6 percent
4-4.9	11.4 percent	11.8 percent
5-5.9	6.6 percent	5.0 percent
6 and over	7.3 percent	4.9 percent
Grand Total	100 percent	100 percent

The number of persons per house (housing unit) in the West Bank is 6.9 and in Gaza 6.0 persons.

Population density (number of persons per room) is 2.7 in the West Bank and 2.7 in Gaza.

As a result of this situation, the idea of setting up housing cooperatives to solve the difficult crisis has emerged.

Even as we greet the minds that have taken the initiative of establishing the housing cooperatives, we raise the following important question:

Are the housing cooperatives confined to the educated group (we mean by the educated the group that earns its living with a certain type of educational diploma—lawyer, doctor, professor, engineer and journalist)? Why hasn't anybody turned to the silent majority, the needy majority?

Will the housing projects lead us to constructing housing suburbs inhabited by certain groups who are separated from the rest of the citizens?

Naturally, a professional who might consider living in a housing project will not accept to live in popular [low income] apartments. He dreams of a separate house and a nice size garden. It has become evident from our interviews with the housing cooperatives that most of their members prefer to live in separate houses. This is their business. But how about those who care for solving the problems of the poor classes? Why haven't they taken the initiative to include the needy in their cooperatives? It may be said that people with a limited income are unable to meet the installments to pay the cost of the land and then go on to build. So why isn't the initiative taken to build housing complexes on the smallest area possible to accommodate the largest number possible, thus saving large sums which can be used in other projects?

Why haven't these studies concerning the housing projects that gives the priority to the needy before others? This is a question we present to the people concerned.

We have visited a number of housing projects, especially in the areas of Nabulus and Ramallah, and have interviewed a number of the founding members of these cooperatives. We have learned from them the stages of the start and implementation of their projects, the obstacles and problems they have faced, their successes and the positions of the members of the cooperatives generally. We have also interviewed some citizens who have not been able to get housing and who are in the direst need of such housing.

In Nabulus, we met with a number of members of the engineers housing cooperative which is headed by Hani 'Arafat.

The cooperative includes 14 engineers from Nabulus area. The majority of them live in the area and most work in the Arab countries (Jordan and the Arabian Peninsula).

The cooperative was founded in 1975 and purchased a piece of land near the top of Mount Jirzim overlooking the city of Nabulus, the Janin-Tulkarm road, the Qalqilyah road and the villages of Dayr Sharaf and al-Junayd.

The area of the land is 85 donums for which the cooperative paid 47,000 Jordanian dinars in 1975.

We asked Engineer 'Arafat about the implementation stages and he said:

"We started the work through self-financing. With each member paying 25 Jordanian dinars monthly in order to collect a sufficient sum to start the work. The subscription was then raised to 40 dinars monthly. The sum required of every member in order to start the construction was 7,000 dinars. No work was started on the house of any member who failed to pay the sum. We began by opening a road linking the land to the city and we then prepared the blueprints and built some internal roads."

[Question] What type of housing units will you have: Apartments or separate houses? How much will it cost each member to get a house?

['Arafat] The members wanted to get separate [family] houses, with a plot of land for a garden. We expect each house to cost 25,000-27,000 dinars.

[Question] Don't you think that this is an exorbitant price? Why didn't you resort to a different construction method?

['Arafat] As I have already said, it is the members' wish on the one hand and, on the other hand, the area of the land is needed to expand the construction area in the city of Nabulus.

[Question] What about the new engineers whose income does not exceed 100 dinars monthly? How can such an engineer secure 40 dinars for a monthly installment?

['Arafat] This sum is not big for a person who wants to acquire a house. The engineers also depend on incomes from sources other than their wages. Some of them get assistance from expatriate brothers or relatives.

(Question) Do you think the project will succeed in the light of these costs?

(Answer) Yes, sir. We have started building the houses. Some of them have been completed and others are in the process of being completed. I am optimistic.

(Question) Have you gotten aid from the Engineers' Club or from the banks?

(Answer) The project is being built with our contributions as participants and every member who starts building pays the required sum. Whoever pays first gets a house first. As for aid, we have not gotten a single piaster from anybody. The participating members who were abroad pay more than their share and this makes the costs to the members who cannot pay their installments.

(Question) Do your authorities provide for building recreational and Public facilities in the project?

(Answer) The authorities provide for building a kindergarten, a public park and a central market.

(Question) How many members does the Club have?

(Answer) The Club has 100 members. The initiator of the idea of housing companies in Kuwait area, who said:

The Club was founded in 1975 and includes 100 members who are employed in the oil industry and live in or outside Kuwait.

The Club purchased an 82-dunam piece of land from Sabji village for 120,000 dinars. We paid the cost of the land from our subscriptions which amount to 100 dinars per member. We get monthly subscriptions of 15 dinars per member and each member pays the sum in 20 installments. We are still paying.

(Question) What were the problems which you have faced in starting and implementing the project?

(Answer) The large number of participants forced us to look for a large piece of land suitable for this number. This was the biggest problem. Then came the problem of the permit. We overcame both problems after getting the land and securing the permit.

(Question) What is the type of construction? Is it apartments or separate houses?

(Answer) I would like to point out that we were not able to purchase land within the jurisdiction of Kuwait Municipality for two reasons: First, the municipality is a body of land large enough to accommodate the housing and public facilities and with some of the public facilities. Thus, we were not able to purchase the land within the municipality's boundaries. Therefore, we have been forced to go to the free zone construction. It is

the members' wish to have separate houses. Moreover, the regulations in force outside the municipality's boundaries do not permit the establishment of apartment buildings. This is why it has been agreed to build separate houses.

[Question] What are the costs per housing unit?

[Mr. al-Salam] We expect the unit, excluding the foundations, to cost 8,300 Jordanian dinars. As for the finishing and the appliances, they are expected to cost a similar or a little smaller sum.

[Question] Are the members satisfied with the progress of this project and the other projects?

[Mr. al-Salam] We are fully satisfied, despite the difficulties facing us. As for the projects generally, the promise is to supply a house for whomever needs one. Our cooperative's constituent declaration stipulates that the member may not be the independent owner of a house. The housing projects are the most important projects we have and they contribute to having the citizen build up to the land and to ridding him of the burden of monthly rent.

One of the signs of our success is that we now have 200 applications for membership in the cooperative. We are trying to solve the problem of the applicants by finding the necessary land to house them, even though land prices have risen drastically since we purchased our piece of land. The price of a dunum was 7,000 dinars then and has now risen to 10,500 dinars. We believe that a comprehensive study on the housing conditions and a complete housing plan are the most successful means to solve this problem. But the present circumstances may not provide the opportunity for such a study.

In Sarfud area, where there are more than 15 housing cooperatives, some of them housing provisionally and some mixed, we interviewed Engineer Adib 'Abdallah from the housing cooperative which has completed its project where some of the members have already moved to their houses.

He told us that the idea of the cooperative developed in 1976 and was initiated originally by lawyers. But the original idea failed and was then revived by the broad participation by 30 members from the various professions. We purchased a 1.5-dunum piece of land within the boundaries of al-Sirah Municipality for 15,000 dinars.

[Question] What are the plans for implementing the project and what point in the project have you reached?

[Mr. Adib] We have implemented the major part of the project and some are already living in their new houses. After purchasing the land, we built a road to the plots, opened a number of internal roads, supplied water and electricity and dug the foundations. Our project provides for linking every participant with the telephone network either by transferring the telephone if one participant already has one or by extending a new line for whomever does not have one. As I have already said, the project is about to be completed.

[Question] What is the construction pattern and what is the cost to every participant?

[Answer] The area of the land is 14 donums only. If we omit from this area the roads, the services and the fences, we are left with just 10 donums. So we thought of the most convenient construction pattern, taking into consideration several factors, including the members' wish to have separate houses. The pattern of apartment buildings is still undesirable. There is also the nature of the land's terrain which required levelling, as well as the cost of the materials. As a result of all these factors, it was decided to build in the (townhouse) pattern which made it possible to build 30 adjacent and independent units consisting of a single floor and with a plot of land in front of the house and one behind it. The area of each unit, including the basement, is 210 square meters. The internal division of the units has been done according to the members' wishes. The cost of each unit, including the cost of the services, roads, foundations, the land and the telephone, has amounted to 7,000 dinars. What helped us in this regard is that we did not invite bids from contractors but hired on our own craftsmen to do the work. We purchased the necessary materials and paid the mason on the basis of per square meter. I believe that our project has been the least costly of all the housing projects.

[Question] How did you finance the project?

[Abdallah] We relied on the principle of self-financing through monthly installments, in addition to the lump sum paid by each participant at the start of the project. But using the (townhouse) method and hiring the construction labor, we have been able to save large sums of money. Add to this our full control of the amount of raw materials, such as cement and iron, to insure strong and firm construction. The cooperative undertook to deliver unfinished housing units to the members, with each member paying for his own finishing touches and appliances which cost at least 5,000 dinars per unit.

[Question] What is your opinion of the housing projects? Who is the beneficiary and are they founded on the basis of those who are most entitled or not?

[Abdallah] The concept of housing is good. But may I record some reservations here. First, the housing units go to those with a relatively lower priority. Second, this housing is above the level of the actual need. Units built in the form of separate villas are an unnecessary luxury. Those in charge of the housing projects must take into consideration a number of fundamental factors, the most important being the cost, the capability of the members, the nature of the terrain, the cost of the land and the members' wishes. The building pattern should then be decided on the basis of the balance of all these factors.

Bir Zayt University Employees' Housing Cooperative

The Bir Zayt [University] employees started thinking of establishing their own housing cooperative many years ago. But numerous factors delayed the creation of this cooperative, including the unavailability of land and the

university's negotiations to acquire a part of the land which it had planned to acquire near al-Tirah Institute in Ramallah. Finally, agreement was reached and the employees decided to start implementing the housing plan. We have interviewed 'Awdah Shihadah, a university employee and one of the cooperative members, who has said:

We were asked to pay an initial sum of 500 dinars per member in order to pay for the land. A total of 26 donums have been purchased so far. We paid 500 dinars and then 10 dinars in subscription fees and a monthly installment of 30 dinars.

[Question] What is the building pattern you are planning for?

[Shihadah] There is no set pattern and each group will choose the building pattern it wishes or the one dictated by its needs and financial capability.

[Question] What is your view of the project in the light of the capabilities of the university employees and workers?

[Shihadah] I will be revealing no secret when I say that most of us, both employees and workers, borrowed the 500 dinars constituting the initial installment to pay for the land. Moreover, we were asked a month ago to pay 400 more dinars. There is also the 30-dinar monthly installment which is deducted from our salary and this installment is paid equally by the worker whose monthly wages are 80 dinars and the doctor who earns 400 dinars monthly. This is not fair. Moreover, we have the building and the appliances ahead of us. This will drain the capabilities of the small employees and workers. This is why we are pressuring the university to pay the cost of the land, and we hope it will respond to this request. Certainly, some of us can pay all these installments and they are the ones who have no housing problem to start with. As for the rest, we are already drowned in debts. For your information, a considerable number of employees have withdrawn from the housing project because they are unable to pay the initial installment or the monthly installment. They have also felt that this project will not succeed. Despite this, we are optimistic that the project will be completed.

[Question] How can you be optimistic when you are in a situation where you cannot meet the monthly installment?

[Answer] We will collect donations from abroad to complete the project.

Al-Birah Housing Cooperative

We also interviewed Dr Samir Katibah, member of the Executive Board of al-Birah Housing Cooperative, who has said:

We have in our cooperative 24 members from various professions. We purchased a 16-donum piece of land and started building 1 1/2 years ago. The work is going on according to the cooperative's plan.

[Question] What is the construction pattern used by your cooperative?

[Katibah] We have fulfilled the members' wishes by building separate housing units. The terrain has also encouraged us to adopt this pattern.

[Question] Don't you think that the construction costs rise when the pattern of separate units is followed?

[Katibah] The costs may rise a little. But I challenge [anybody to prove] that this construction pattern is more costly than others.

[Question] How do you view the [cooperative] housing movement and does it meet the goal insofar as needs and priorities are concerned?

[Katibah] First, any citizen can participate in the housing cooperatives, regardless of his position and profession. Housing is not a monopoly for any group. I believe that the foundation of housing cooperatives is a very essential activity that must continue and must be supported in cities and in villages. But there is a misunderstanding insofar as the projects are concerned. The activity is not an opportunity for plundering, as some people view it. Consideration must also be given to the sites where the housing is built, whether in or adjacent to the cities and villages. It is my opinion that comprehensive studies must be made on the housing needs within the framework of a plan that takes the priorities into consideration. The comprehensive solution lies, in my opinion, in the creation of a major establishment that builds apartments and housing units and distributes them to the needy citizens, collecting the costs over a period of 20 years, for example. A solution of the kind will open a broad opportunity for housing the largest number possible of the needy families. Without this, it is difficult for the numerous projects, some of which have undermined the phenomenon generally, to succeed.

In the town of al-Birah, the citizens are experiencing a stifling housing crisis. The town's population has grown by a large degree and many of its young couples cannot find housing. If such housing is found, the rent is too high for a new and salaried employee to afford.

As we have already pointed out, a five-member family needs a house consisting of no less than two bedrooms and the accessories. The rent of such a house is no less than 50 dinars monthly. This is an astronomical figure for people with a limited income.

We have interviewed the family of Isma'il Abu Hammad which is comprised of eight members and lives in a house consisting of one bedroom and another small room which they call a living room, in addition to kitchen and bathroom.

[Question] How much rent do you pay for this house?

[Abu Hammad] We pay 12 Jordanian dinars [monthly]. This is an old rent that dates back to 1972. The landlord has been trying to raise it because he knows he can rent the house for 25 or 30 dinars, despite its small size.

[Question] You are an eight-member family. How could this house accommodate you and why don't you move to a bigger house?

[Abu Hammad] We are compelled to stay in this house because I work as a construction laborer in Jerusalem and my monthly wages are hardly enough to meet the family's expenses. How could I afford the rent of another house costing more than 50 dinars monthly? The high prices of flour, meat, vegetables, clothing and school expenses are enough.

[Question] Haven't you had the opportunity to join a cooperative housing project?

[Abu Hammad] So far, we haven't had a real opportunity. Once, we were offered the chance to join a housing cooperative and were asked to pay 1,200 dinars as a down payment for the land. This is an impossible sum for us, not to mention the future installments, furnishing the house and so forth. Housing is for "certain" people and not for us. We hear of the projects but do not benefit from them.

All we ask for is a modest house that can accommodate us, just a small apartment. Moreover, why do they call them housing projects as long as we pay the cost of the land and other installments?

We have also interviewed the family of Ahmad Rabih Hasan, a 10-member family that includes the parents, six children and the oldest son who is married and has a baby girl. The family lives in two rooms and the oldest son, his wife and his daughter live in a third room. The unit has an outhouse and a wooden shack for a kitchen in the yard. The father said sarcastically: "We have been paying 23 dinars [monthly] for this villa since 1974. I work as a school janitor, my [oldest] son works at a blacksmith's and other one works at a restaurant. The others go to school.

[Question] Why don't you rent a bigger house to accommodate you?

[Father] I don't think anybody likes to be crowded into such a small, damp and unhealthy house. But the circumstances have compelled us to stay. If we rent a bigger house or two houses, one for me and one for my son, then this would mean paying 100 dinars monthly. You know how the rents are.

We demand that rent be lowered or that small apartments be built for poor people like us.

[Question] Why don't you join a housing cooperative?

[Father] What cooperatives? We have not heard of them and nobody has made us such an offer. We wish there were inexpensive projects. A house is the most precious thing a family can own.

BRIEFS

ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER 'CANNONS'--London--Israel is developing a new armored personnel carrier, according to the usually well informed DEFENSE ATTACHE, published in this city. The paper says that development of this system is well under way, having begun some three years ago. According to the report, Israel military experts concluded some years ago that no army in the world would be able to pay for a sufficiently large number of tanks, needed to provide all the fire power required for the protection of infantry on the modern battlefield. To overcome that difficulty, it is said, those experts decided to upgrade the much less expensive personnel carrier, and to equip it with a cannon. The combination allegedly chosen was the U.S.-built M113 armored personnel carrier, together with a rapid fire 60mm gun with automatic loader and a firing rate of up to 100 rounds per minute. This poses not inconsiderable problems, since the gun itself weighs 700 kg (more than 1,500 lbs), and its ammunition also is heavy. According to the British journalists, Israel hopes to ready this system soon, also for export to various foreign customers. Most important among those may be the U.S. Marine Corps, since a similar system now under development in the United States is said to be some years before completion. In that case, says DEFENSE ATTACHE, a new personnel carrier, now being developed, is to be used, with mass production impossible before 1990. No comment on this news story is available from official Israel sources. [Text] [Jerusalem INNOVATION in English No 86, Jan 83 p 2]

PROTECTIVE GARMENTS REDUCE CASUALTIES--Haifa--The widespread use of so-called "bulletproof" vests by Israel combat troops has reduced the number of casualties to a considerable degree, according to military physicians. Summaries to that effect were made public here at a recent professional meeting, intended to draw initial conclusions from the army medics' experience during last summer's fighting in Lebanon. Protective vests, made in Israel largely on the basis of domestic R&D, are now issued to all soldiers in combat situations. Although they cannot stop bullets, they are capable of absorbing the impact of most shell splinters and bomb fragments--previously a major source of battlefield injuries. Although they are quite uncomfortable in hot summer weather, such vests were worn willingly by Israel soldiers, who quickly learned to recognize their survival value. Analysis of casualty statistics shows a sharp drop in the proportion of chest and abdominal injuries, and of consequent damage to vital organs. Now most serious wounds tend to involve orthopedics--since arms and legs

are not covered by the protective vests and remain exposed to enemy action. Another success reported by army medics is the issue of fireproof gloves to Israel armored corps soldiers. This piece of equipment has almost completely eliminated the previously common burn injuries to hands and arms. [Text] [Jerusalem INNOVATION in English No 86, Jan 83 p 3]

COMPUTERIZED IRRIGATION--RAVIT 3000 is a new microprocessor-based system, designed for the automation of rain-gun irrigation. The guns are installed at the beginning of the season using snap-in couplers. The system requires no further handling until its removal before harvest. The sprinklers can operate in any pre-determined order, which can be implemented in a single cycle or in repeated cycles. The quantity of water can be programmed to vary at any position. If needed, liquid fertilizer can be applied at any location in the field and the dosing can be varied from one position to another. Battery back-up prevents the loss of the irrigation program memory in case of power failure. The system includes safety features such as predetermined levels of high and low pressures, bursts in line and wind velocity controls. RAVIT 3000 advantages are: The system is suitable for sprinkler and drip irrigation. Error control circuiting permits smooth operation even under conditions of external interference. LED data display and strip printout. Remote control. No moving parts. Suitable for any kind of topography. Convenient for irrigating irregularly shaped areas. The best performance/price ratio available. Maintenance and service by our local agents. [Text] [Jerusalem THE ISRAEL ECONOMIST in English Jan 83 p 33]

UNION OF LA'AM, HERUT--Very soon La'am will cease to exist as an independent faction and will be absorbed by the Herut faction. The long contacts have now reached the agreement stage. The signing of the agreement is being delayed until the return of the chairman of the secretariat of Herut, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, who is on a visit in South Africa. The chairman of the La'am faction, Health Minister Shostak, says regarding the anticipated union: "We want unity and nothing else. The idea is to unify the factions within the Likud. The Liberals are not yet ready for it so at least we are joining. We are not asking for anything and therefore nothing is being promised us. Our achievement is unity without preconditions. What Shostak refuses to reveal is the "small details" of this union. The La'am people were promised places on Herut's list to the Knesset, which will insure their four seats. La'am also want 150 members in the Herut center, but will make do with 100. The work of integrating the La'am members in Herut will be done apparently by the Herut ministers, so that no one in the movement is slighted. Herut people are already making plans based on their new infusion of blood and are trying to figure out who will be able to increase his power as a result of the forthcoming union. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 83 Supplement p 19] 9565

ELIGIBILITY OF NAVY RESERVES--The Special Task Unit of the Navy will accept regular volunteers from the technological reserves of the IDF, beginning in May of this year. The unit performs underwater rescue and salvage operations. In the past only regular army personnel trained in underwater operations were accepted. [Text] [Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew 9 Feb 83 p 5] 9565

NEGEV PHOSPHATES PROGRAM--Dimonah--Some \$32m. are being invested during the current business year by Negev Phosphates Ltd., in the expansion of its mining and conversion facilities. A member firm of the government controlled Israel Chemicals group, the company operates extensive open pit phosphate rock mines in different Negev locations. Output has been on the upgrade, in recent years. It advanced from about 1.8 million tons, in 1978/79, to more than 2.5 millions last year. By the end of the decade that is to be doubled, and more, to nearly six million tons annually. Negev Phosphates is also deeply involved in the conversion of its raw materials to phosphoric acid, a chemical in wide demand as an animal feed additive and for various industrial applications. Now about 100,000 tons are produced every year, and that is expected to increase five-fold, at least, by the end of the 1980s. [Text] [Jerusalem ISRAEL BUSINESS in English No 377, Jan 83 p 9]

ARMS EXPORT LIMITED--The special Cabinet committee on arms exports this week issued a landmark decision /limiting the development of Israel's arms export industry/ [in boldface] to 25 percent of the total industrial export sector. The runaway development of arms exports, if left unchecked, could shatter the future stability of all other branches, warned Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt. The arms industry, which depends upon international politics and alignments, could well find itself depressed if any changes in the international situation occurred in the future. And that could conceivably drag the total export scene down with it. Israeli arms exports have ballooned in recent years and now constitute 22 percent of the country's total industrial exports. Patt was concerned, however, that if the industry continues to expand at the rate of attracting a yearly foreign currency increase of \$700 million, as it has during the past few years, Israel will gain an image of existing solely as an arms producer. He noted, though, that roughly 80 percent of Israel's military products are secret and not for export, and that Israel will not export arms to countries that the U.S., Canada, England or France boycott. [Text] [Tel Aviv NEWSVIEW in English No 4, 25 Jan 83 p 30]

DEXTER CHEMICAL PROGRAM--Yavne--A major expansion program, including possible entry into new lines of activity, is now under way at Dexter Chemicals, in this development town south of Tel Aviv. A recent share issue on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, in the amount of IS 47m., is providing much of the necessary financing. Established and largely owned by Sidney Edelstein, a noted New York chemist and industrialist, Dexter has until now concentrated mainly on chemicals for the textile industry, but also makes products for other industrial customers. More recently the company has added a line of consumer items, including various special purpose cleaners. A major portion of the company's output is exported; in 1981 that amounted to some 85% of production, yielding a foreign currency income of approximately \$1.8 m. Dexter's most important markets are in England, Italy, Australia and Taiwan, with shipments also going to various Mediterranean countries, such as Greece, Spain and Portugal. Only now efforts are being intensified to expand the company's domestic sales, mainly by the introduction of its household products to the local retail market. Dexter's R&D unit is engaged in a number of promising projects, aimed at furthering company growth. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem ISRAEL BUSINESS in English No 377, Jan 83 p 8]

LONG LIFE ON KIBBUTZ--A study conducted by two researchers at Haifa University shows that the average life expectancy of the kibbutz is the highest in the world. The study, conducted by Uri Livyatan and Yiske Kohen, reveal that the average life expectancy on the kibbutz is 73.7 years for men and 78.6 years for women. A 50-year-old man, for example, who lives on a kibbutz, has a chance of living on the average another 28 years, while the average Israeli man of the same age can only expect to live another 26 years. The study compared the life expectancy of the kibbutz in comparison to the rest of Israel as well as 90 societies around the world. The results of the study were presented yesterday at the convention of the sociological association meeting in Haifa. Mr Livyatan said that it is now from the professional literature that life expectancy is influenced by the kind of social support a person has in his immediate environment. Thus, foreign elements do not have influence in a kibbutz, where singles and widowers also receive social support, such as care during illness, and the death rate at an old age of singles is not higher than that of married people. In general the death rate of singles is twice as high as that of married. [Text] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Feb 83 p 7 9565

CSO: 4423/108

EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE EXAMINED

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic No 447, 26 Feb 83 p 15

[Article: "The Present Egyptian Press and the Palestinian Issue"]

[Text] Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the heroic resistance shown by the forces of the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Forces in defense of Lebanon and its freedom, the space in the Egyptian press allotted to the Palestinian issue has increased, not only through publication of statements by Egyptian officials on various levels, but also through the following: there is scarcely an Egyptian newspaper at a loss for news and articles about Palestinian, Arab, and international initiatives for a just solution to the Palestinian issue, which would enable the Palestinians to self-determination and their right to establish their homeland.

Some of the news and statements being published are attributed to their authors, whether they be Palestinian leaders of the PLO or some of the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territory. Some other reports and statements, however, are being published anonymously and attributed to special sources. This latter type of report and statement causes skepticism and stirs up unrest and causes disunity in the Palestinian ranks. This is despite a major change in the way in which the Egyptian press deals with the issue of Palestine and the Palestinians, to such an extent that one of the senior Egyptian journalists wrote an editorial about TIME magazine not selecting a man of the year for 1982, asserting that the Palestinian fighter, with his heroism and bravery, deserved that title.

Despite this, governmental press comments in general center around calling on the Palestinians for simultaneous and mutual recognition. There is an insistence on the matter of negotiation with America and Israel, and the matter of relations with Jordan, as well as the proposed forms of union between the two parties, and the repercussions of these positions on the various parties. This January saw an important and unusual development in the Egyptian press that is subject to complete governmental direction. It used to be that the dialogue about the Palestinian case was between the opposition press and the government press. Now for the first time in years, a public dispute has occurred about the way to deal with the Palestinian case, and the two parties to the dispute are Ibrahim Nafi', editor of AL-AHRAM and Mukarran Muhammad Ahmad, editor of the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR.

This occurred within the context of the efforts being made to arrange the visit of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Cairo. The attempt at this was made first by the opposition Union and Labor parties, and then by the Pan-Arab Committee to Support the Palestinian People, in the context of preparing to hold a people's conference on the Arab level to support the issue of the Palestinian people. Then the public welcome for the visit came from President Husni Mubarak and from Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the vice president and minister of foreign affairs. Makarram Muhammad conducted a comprehensive interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chief and the entire interview was published on the pages of the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR. Abu 'Ammar's answers to the questions of the editor of AL-MUSAWWAR were described as being in the spirit of trust and love for the Egyptian people and respect for their historic role. He stressed Egypt's historic role in the leadership of Arab destiny, and the negative effects of Egypt's absence from the Arab scene. Within the context of complete respect and understanding of all the circumstances that President Mubarak faces, Abu 'Ammar in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR demanded that Egypt take a dramatic step toward a just peace that would include the establishment of the Palestinian people's national rights.

There were many points within Abu 'Ammar's interview with AL-MUSAWWAR that could be in accord, to some extent or other, with the Egyptian point of view. For example, the possibility of accepting a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or agreement on the Fez conference resolutions, and the recognition that there are some positive elements in the Reagan initiative, despite the fact that it ignores the right of self-determination and recognition of the PLO. The entire interview was filled with bridges that Abu 'Ammar threw across the river of Palestinian-Egyptian relations.

'Arafat's Visit Stirs Up the Proponents of the Liberalization Policy

The interview and its ramifications stirred up severe unrest and annoyance among certain of the ruling circles in Egypt, those circles that had bet and are still betting on liberalization, and on America and Israel. A spokesman for this unrest and annoyance was Ibrahim Nafi', the editor of AL-AHRAM. Since it is well known and common knowledge in Egypt that when Ibrahim Nafi' writes about sensitive and pressing issues, he is in fact merely putting his name and signature on an article that the real author does not want or rather dare to publish under his own name. As soon as the article appeared, it was rumored that the original author was Dr Mustafa Khalil, one of the engineers of Egyptian-Israeli-American relations and one of the most prominent Egyptians representing Sadatist thinking inside the government.

That article, published by AL-AHRAM, returned to the odious tone that had prevailed in the Egyptian press during Sadat's regime, that tone that had, to a great extent, disappeared during the past few months, and that was the object of condemnation and scorn by the masses of Egyptian readers.

Arafat's Purpose Was to Tear Up Camp David

The article "opened fire" on Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian Resistance. In the view of Sadat's followers, the Resistance has not learned the lesson, had not yet recovered from the old illnesses, and was intentionally ignoring

everything that Egypt had done in the past and in the present on behalf of the Palestinian cause. The Resistance today was hiding under the warmth of kind words, while demanding an Egyptian-Palestinian role, which will lead a more decisive Arab position regarding events in the area. The article described the Resistance as being still immersed in the dreams of the past, and called on Egyptians to be more cautious about those words that are filled with slogans of warmth and friendship, but which in fact are merely a trap, because 'Arafat's hidden purpose is to tear up the peace treaty with Israel. Despite the fact that the editor of AL-AHRAM welcomed 'Arafat's visit, at the conclusion of the article, the article left no room or doubt with the reader that it was a clear rejection of the visit, or rather, called on the Egyptians to reject it. The ultimate goal of the article was to impede the Egyptian-Palestinian national efforts to restore the relationship. Accordingly, this article did not leave much room to maneuver for those in authority who are working for rapprochement with the Palestinians.

Makarram Muhammad Ahmad, the editor of AL-MUSAWWAR, described the article, attributed to Ibrahim Nafi', by saying that the writer distorted Abu 'Ammar's words, in order to set forth what he had not said and probably had not even been thinking. He stressed what Abu 'Ammar had said in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR: "I am not asking for the impossible. All I want is a well-thought out tactical step."

Arafat Requests a Declaration of Principles Regarding Palestine

Out of all the governmental press, the magazine AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI is the prime spokesman for the interests of national capitalism in Egypt vis-a-vis the "parasitical class," and it is the one that calls for relations with Israel and America. The magazine attributed an interview to Yasir 'Arafat, in which he stressed all the themes that he had repeated in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, stressing that he was anxious not to embarrass Egypt in light of the increasing disparity in the strategic balance between Egypt and Israel, to the benefit of Israel. At the same time, Abu 'Ammar demanded of Husni Mubarek that he not embarrass him by calling on him for unilateral recognition of Israel. Abu 'Ammar did not put any conditions on rapprochement with Husni Mubarek or on working with him to exhaust all the options to settle the dispute peacefully. In exchange for that, Abu 'Ammar asked Egypt to issue a declaration of principles pertaining to the Palestinian case, asserting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their independent homeland, and that the PLO is the legal representative of the Palestinian people. These are principles that Egypt had previously endorsed during the regime of 'Abd al-Nasir and in the beginning of Sadat's regime.

In recording the important development that has occurred in the way in which the Egyptian press deals with the Palestinian case, we must certainly point out that even within the most favorable direction in the press, there are positions that can only be described as provoking doubts in the ranks of Resistance organizations, and provoking ideological arrogance and fear regarding this tendency or that.

PLO SEEKS RECOGNITION FROM THAILAND

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic No 446, 19 Feb 83 pp 26-27

[Article by Mustafa al-Safarini: "Political Recognition Upgraded to diplomatic Representation. Thai Foreign Ministry Recognizes Arab Force of Palestine Liberation Organization. [Thai] Opposition Leader Awed by Military and Political Resistance in Beirut Battle"]

[Text] The Zionist focus on such a nation as Thailand never was nor could be a matter of chance. Rather, it's the result of the Zionist movement's awareness of the importance of this nation, and the degree of its political, military, economic and geographic effect on the surrounding countries in particular, and countries of Southeast Asia in general.

Thailand with its population of fifty million constitutes a huge trading market for the Zionist goods. Through these markets the Zionist enemy's goods, at very low prices, can find their way to some oil-producing Arab countries and other Moslem countries.

Thailand is also the principal source of manual labor for the Gulf states, and it is not by any means an insignificant source of meeting the enemy's need of manual labor. The Thai labor force in the occupied territories is suspected of also performing semi-military operations there. Thailand constitutes a large entryway for the Zionist enemy to increase his presence and influence in some of the member states in the ASEAN organization who are in the Philippines and Singapore wing and to strive to influence other countries in Southeast Asia, like Indonesia and Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Thailand forms the central nerve and backbone of the ASEAN pact regarding location, capability and influence in terms of competition and instability in Southeast Asia. Thailand's entry in it as a central partner has turned it into a consumers' market for the apportioned Israeli and American arms and formulations.

Because of its free market and being the principal tourist center for Southeast Asia, surpassing Singapore in importance, Thailand has become a vehicle for trumpeting the Zionist movement's ideological poison and strengthening its hostile policy against the Arab Palestinian people and the Arab nation, far removed from any countervailing informational effort, whether Palestinian or Arab. Thailand, officially and as a nation, is rendered a plain and simple obedient tool of this policy that benefits the Zionist enemy.

Since Laos is geographically, historically, and in terms of customs, traditions, language and religion an adjacent and bordering country, the Palestine Liberation Organization Bureau intimated to the People's Democratic Republic of Laos that it is directly concerned with what transpires in Thailand, and it undertook the responsibility of opposing and blocking the way to the falsifiers of the truth and events of our Palestinian history and the legitimate rights of our people, and to convey the truth about the Palestinian fighter and revolution under the leadership of the Brother [Yasir Arafat] commander-in-chief, to the Thais and to gain their sympathy to our cause.

Recognition

Our [PLO] Bureau began its activities at the beginning of 1979 through our friends and comrades in Laos. Comrade Sisna Sisian, Central Committee member of Laotian Revolutionary Party, was gratefully assigned minister of education and publicity on account of his contributions and role in this sphere. Personal and unofficial visits on the Thai part, which are numerous and active, culminated in an invitation to the PLO representatives in Laos to visit the Thai capital Bangkok. He was the first Palestinian official to meet with the leadership of the opposition parties and other progressive personalities.

The visit, made during the period 11 February 1982, was followed by other official visits, whereupon official Thai recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people were extended in the speech given by Foreign Minister Marshal Sitthi during the 37th session of the United Nations.

Thailand and PLO's Arab Influence

It must be mentioned here that Israel does not permit the Palestinian sword of justice to threaten the neck of the perfidious occupier in regions where it exerts the greater influence. But then came the awe-inspiring resistance of the combined Palestinian-Lebanese forces, under the leadership of the Brother commander-in-chief in Beirut, that lasted for the duration of 79 days and broke the nose of the faithless in Beirut, and consecrated and solidified these victories--the Thai recognition being but one of these victories.

The letter of gratitude carried by Abu al-Lutf, PLO Bureau chief, to the PLO representative in Laos to be delivered to the Thai Foreign Minister Marshal Sitthi, had a considerable effect in strengthening, increasing and developing the Palestinian-Thai relations.

During the period 20-30 December 1982 the PLO representative in Laos made an official visit, at the invitation of the Thai foreign minister, and was accompanied by Uthman al-Najar, third secretary, who met with Mr. Arsa, permanent secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry. At the meeting, which lasted two hours and was characterized by an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the Thai secretary conveyed his government's understanding of the PLO's influence in the Arab world in particular and the international prestige

enjoyed by the PLO in general. From this perspective, the permanent secretary wishes the PLO representative success for the expected visit of his foreign minister to certain Arab countries.

At a meeting with the PLO representative Mr. Suthi, general director of the political bureau of the Thai Foreign Ministry, confirmed the legitimate rights of our people and that a just solution to the Middle East problem emanates from the justice of the solution to the Palestinian cause. He expressed his and his government's distress at the Israeli aggression and the Zionist occupation.

At a meeting that took place at the Foreign Ministry Mr. Jalrin, Director General of the Office of African and Arab Nations in the Foreign Ministry, referred to the Thai government's awareness of the expanding relations and cooperation with Arab countries, particularly in the aftermath of Thai recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and to side with the Arabs in their peace plan.

Opposition Leader and Beirut Battle

Meetings were held with numerous departments and political personalities at the Foreign Ministry. Regarding the opposition, the PLO representatives visited the opposition leader former Foreign Minister General Kriangsak, head of the National Democratic Party, who expressed great surprise at the Thai stand concerning the opening of a PLO headquarter in the capital Bangkok. He said that the trying experiences [In the Beirut Battle] of the leaders of those heroes who gave splendid lessons in determination, perseverance and voluntariness--under the wise leadership of the Brother, the political, military and diplomatic commander, and which added information as yet unavailable in the principles of military science--were occasions leading to the opening of their embassy and representing their people.

As the meeting drew to a close, the general expressed to the brother representative his utmost respect and esteem together with support for the Brother commander-in-chief [Arafat], the heroes of the resistance and protection, and to the Arab Palestinian people.

Another meeting took place between the PLO representative and Mr. Prayoon, deputy of Marshal Kriangsak and Thai parliament member, who received an invitation to participate in the upcoming session of the Palestine National Council.

International Concern

The concern for publicity and the focus of the media in covering all the activities of the visit gave it an attractive impression--as evident in the press conference held with the envoys of the international news media deemed reliable by Bangkok.

The PLO Bureau in the Popular Democratic Republic of Laos will double its efforts and contacts on the official and national levels in order to crystallize and strengthen the new Thai position so that the Palestine Liberation Organization will have the right to open its office in the capital Bangkok.

PLO SUFFERING HUGE DEFICIT FOLLOWING EXPULSION FROM BEIRUT

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 83 p 7]

[Text] The PLO is suffering from a huge deficit as a result of its expulsion from Beirut because Libyan leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, and other Arab leaders have not sent the organization the relief funds promised them. So said PLO members in Algiers yesterday. The PLO members, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Qadhafi continues to send money and weapons only to members of the Rejectionist Front, mainly Ahmad Jabril's organization, the Popular Front-General Command. Qadhafi is completely ignoring Yasir 'Arafat and official PLO leadership because he objects to the relatively moderate stand they have taken recently in the Middle East conflict. PLO second in command Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) told reporters that Qadhafi sent a large shipment of weapons to his extremist supporters in the PLO during the war in Lebanon, but that the shipment was seized in its entirety by the IDF. "The Israeli's intercepted cases of Libyan weapons that were still sealed," said al-Wazir. "Some were booby-trapped and exploded later in Israeli camps."

A special committee of the PNC conference in Algiers discussed the PLO budget in a closed door session. Sources close to the discussions refused to give an estimate of the PLO budget but revealed that Saudi Arabia had contributed \$20 million in aid to Palestinian refugees who were hurt [nifge'u] by the war in Lebanon. Salah al-Dabbagh, chairman of the PLO finance committee, said that a number of Arab countries have not paid the PLO money they promised it because of the decrease in their oil income. He said that Iraq was in arrears on a \$37 million payment it had promised due to the war with Iran. "We need hundreds of millions of dollars to be able to sustain the expenses incurred during the invasion of Lebanon," said Abu Jihad. "We need funds in order to be able to rearm our forces, to aid the families of casualties, disabled soldiers, and refugees inside and outside of Lebanon."

Abu Jihad expressed gratitude to the Gulf States, specifically Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE for contributing large sums of money to the PLO during the past few weeks, but said that these amounts do not satisfy their needs. According to Abu Jihad, the PLO leadership is not receiving any aid from Qadhafi, since "we prefer to receive nothing from Qadhafi than surrender to his rule." Ahmad Jabril himself said that Qadhafi financed "over 50 percent" of the weapons used by the PLO against the Israeli's in Lebanon.

UNIONS PROVIDE MORE BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 8 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] The trade unions of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], with more than 162,000 members, are presently the largest popular organization and the most important center for workers in the country which endeavors for the betterment of the standards of living of the workers and for an increase in the share of the workers in the construction of a modern society under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]. During the last three years important tasks have been accomplished in this field. In order to increase the technical knowledge of the workers and enhance their technical know-how, the trade unions sent 200 persons for technical training, 250 persons for drivers training, 322 persons for syndicate training, to friendly countries as the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic and Bulgaria in the years 1980, 1981 and 1982. Regarding literacy for workers, literacy courses have been established in the capital and the provinces. Similarly in productive organizations 471 educational posters and 379 libraries have been reactivated and utilized to enhance the level of workers' general and political knowledge.

Since the Sawr Revolution, and especially in its new and revolutionary stage, the children of workers, farmers and other laborers are no longer deprived of higher education. In the years 1981 and 1982 the majority of students absorbed by higher educational institutions were the sons of workers, farmers and laborers.

Trade unions have organized sports teams among the workers, and more than 4,500 sportsmen are participating in 450 sports teams. Workers conditions have been improved through better illumination and heating of workshops; the employment of woman workers in relatively easier tasks; the creation of conference rooms for women workers in 32 establishments; and the elimination of difference of ration coupons and food between employees and workers.

The conclusion of collective contracts between the unions of 167 institutions and administration of those organizations has brought about the workers leadership in the process of production. In 1981 by innovation of the trade unions, a winter resort was inaugurated in the city of Jelalbad;

and in the same year 250 workers and 50 children utilized these resorts. In the year 1982, there was an increase in the number of workers using this resort's facilities; and by the end of this year (March 1983), 500 workers and their children will make use of these resorts.

Likewise, in the years 1981 and 1982, 57 workers were sent on recreational visits to such friendly countries as the Soviet Union, Hungary, Mongolia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The trade unions have sent 2,000 children of the working families for one month to the Central Asian Republic's of the Soviet Union.

The DRA trade unions, under the PDPA leadership during the years of revolution have endeavored to ensure the role of the leadership of the working class in the process of production, to improve workers standards of living, and to provide more comfort and a better and healthier working environment for the workers.

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CSO: 4665/5

IMPROVED DEFENSE PLANNING, COST CONTROL URGED

BK101846 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Mar 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Reviewing Defence"]

[Text] India continues to boast a relatively modest defence outlay as a proportion of its GNP. As the finance minister stated while presenting the budget on Monday, "No sacrifice is too great where the nation's security is concerned." There will be no disagreements with the statement. Mr Pranab Mukherjee went on to state that "At the same time we cannot afford to slacken development efforts, however onerous the task may be, as in the ultimate analysis the nation's security rests on economic strength." Juxtaposed, the two remarks underline a painful paradox: The incompatibility, even contradiction--beyond a certain point--between development and defence. The budgetary allocation for defence has increased by leaps and bounds from year to year. The revised figure for the current year is placed at Rs 5,250 crore (or Rs 250 crore more than the budgeted figure) while the amount budgeted for 1983-84 is Rs 5,971 crore, representing a further increase of Rs 621 crore. The finance minister justified the increase by reference to "the geo-political situation in the region and the increasing burden cast upon us because of the threat to our national security." Nevertheless, the rising cost of defence, and the political strategies and threat perceptions on which it is based, is beginning to cast a lengthening shadow over the more basic development process and anti-poverty programme.

The country's first two lines of defence rest on its diplomacy and its internal stability, morale and economic sinews. India has to give up any lingering notion of permanent enemies and work more purposefully to establish a climate of peace and friendship within a framework of regional cooperation. Its relations with its neighbours in South Asia, and particularly with Pakistan (from the military point of view) are crucial. Mistaken theories regarding the imperative nature of bilateralism should not be allowed to come in the way of meaningful regional cooperation, economic and political. This issue needs to be debated clearly and candidly. India is right to call on the non-aligned conference to plead for disarmament. All the more reason therefore to prevent an escalating arms race on the sub-continent, which is unlikely to have much if any relevance at all to the wider strategic outlook in West Asia or the Indian Ocean or even vis-a-vis China!

With inflation and sharply rising replacement costs the least that can be done is to prevent any runaway increase in defence expenditure, though it should be possible, with appropriate diplomacy and defence systems' planning, to effect a standstill or even a decrease in outlay. There are several things that could be done. At the outset, there is no reason why there should not be more openness in discussing broad defence strategies and defence expenditure, so that there is better understanding and more informed debate! There is need for improved system's planning with regard to provisioning and the maintenance and movement of stores for the armed forces. Defence planning and coordination would certainly benefit from the appointment of a chief of defence staff. Field Marshal Manekshaw only recently opined that this would help cut down expenditure and ensure quicker decision-making and a better defence machinery both in time of war and peace. The armed forces, especially the Army, are finding it difficult to recruit adequate personnel of the appropriate calibre because of relatively unfavourable service conditions, including early retirement. Service conditions have been sought to be improved from time to time, most recently for officers with a hint of additional benefits to follow for other ranks. The establishment and logistical cost of a very large manpower base is obviously high and keeps on increasing. Serious consideration needs to be given to the suggestion that the strength of the Army be phased down around a professional core, augmented by compulsory national service for certain categories of youth. This would not merely reduce costs but be a means of returning trained and disciplined young people to the civilian work force. At the same time, exservicemen merit a better deal, not merely in terms of pension but through their collective utilisation as trained manpower in some form of national reconstruction corps. It would also be useful for the government to set up a national security council which would induct knowledgeable persons, outside government as well as from within it and from political life, to review strategic planning and perspectives, an exercise now done, if at all, by the Political Affairs Committee of the cabinet. All these are matters of the utmost importance and should not be swept under the carpet as they have been too long on untenable grounds of national security or patriotism.

CSO: 4600/1865

GULF STATES THREATENED BY MAJLIS SPEAKER

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Feb 83 p 11

[Text] A meeting took place yesterday morning between Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the minister of agriculture, deputy agriculture ministers, provincial directors-general of agriculture, a group of families of martyrs, members of the mobilization corps council of the 2nd district of Tehran as well as a number of directors and members of Islamic Councils of the National Shoe Company.

The meeting began with a report by Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati concerning an Agriculture Ministry seminar in which directors-general, chief forestry officials and heads of the ministry's offices participated. He gave some details concerning the Agriculture Ministry's organizational make-up and service centers and operational procedures for carrying out the future programs of the Ministry of Agriculture--matters which had been discussed at the seminar.

The Majlis speaker then spoke as follows: The families of the martyrs of the revolution are the true owners and inheritors of the revolution. The martyrs given to this revolution were of the best offsprings and are dear in the sight of God. They left from among us to stand at the side of the Almighty.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The families of the martyrs gave their best asset to the revolution, something which cannot be easily forgotten by future generations.

Speaking of the goals and aspirations of the martyrs, the speaker of the Majlis said: The family which has given a martyr for God and the Islamic revolution hopes the goals of its martyr will be implemented in society and we know that the goals of the martyrs are but the exaltation of God, success of the Islamic revolution and the defeat of the enemies of Islam. He added: Therefore, those who strive and show self-sacrifice in offices and factories are but continuing the road of the martyrs. Stressing the need for activity in factories and offices the Majlis speaker said: If our managers, workers, the responsible and the experts do not work enough to make us self-sufficient, even if we win the war but import our needs and remain dependent, it would be useless to win on the battlefield and remain in need in the field of life.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin continued: Therefore the war and the strife is on a front which extends from the battlefield deep into the heart of desert farms. He added: Our enemies imposed the war upon us after they were defeated by us in other cases. When the United States and our other enemies failed to put liberals in power in this country, they began nuisance tactics such as the economic boycott. They figured cutting off raw materials and other needs of a country so much dependent on importing its needs would cause domestic chaos but the forbearance and the efforts of personnel and the workers defeated this too. They then started the war, their main thinking being to create economic difficulties. They wanted to cut us off from the resources of Khuzestan by occupying Abadan, Mahshahr and Khorramshahr and to paralyze our plants and economy by depriving us of the Khuzestan oil. Today too the cost of the war is an issue but the people are at the front and people's help, both in manpower as well as economic resources, are flowing toward battlefronts. The speaker of the Majlis added: Fortunately the situation is now reversed and what our enemies wanted to bring down upon our heads is now Iraq's lot. Iraq is now grappling with the headaches of the war. It thought it could continue the fight with the money of Arab countries and did not expect a drawn out war. Therefore, it keeps Iraqi soldiers at battlefronts by providing them with large payments and various promises under the protection of expensive tanks and rockets.

The protection of every piece of land costs the Iraqis millions of tumans, this at a time when Iraq's oil export roads through the Persian Gulf and Syria have been closed and only an insignificant amount is exported through Turkey, and countries like the United States, France and others do not easily provide the Iraqis with resources. Even if we keep Iraq only at a stalemate, it cannot tolerate the situation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslem in Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded by saying: Iraq has therefore fallen into the well which our enemies had dug for us. This has been made possible by the self-sacrifice of our martyrs and combatants and the toil and sacrifices of our responsible officials and workers. You may rest assured, therefore, that with the strategy being followed by us not only Iraq but any other country of the region that confronts us will come to its knees.

5854

CSO: 4640/139

VELAYATI DISCUSSES IRAN'S ROLE IN NONALIGNED MOVEMENT

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Feb 83 p 11

[Text] As reported by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS SERVICE, Dr Ali-Akbar Velayati, the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had an interview with the correspondent of the news service prior to his departure for Yugoslavia and answered questions concerning the goals of his trip to Yugoslavia, the agenda of the foreign ministers' meeting and active participation in the international organizations.

Speaking of his trip to Yugoslavia and its purpose, Dr Velayati said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My trip to Yugoslavia with an accompanying delegation is at the invitation extended by the Yugoslav foreign minister after his Tehran visit. During this visit the expansion of bilateral political, economic, commercial and cultural relations will be followed up, bearing in mind that in the not too distant past the Yugoslav ministers of foreign affairs and foreign trade, in visits to Tehran, signed bilateral letters of understanding. Cooperations between the two countries are based on the expansion of commerce, the exchange of goods including the supply of a part of Yugoslavia's oil needs by Iran, and the export of a certain amount of goods and non-oil products from Iran to Yugoslavia. As you know Yugoslavia has also progressed in the industrial and technological spheres and we can have good cooperation in metal refining, hydroelectric industries, etc.

He added: Mr Asghar-Oladi [minister of commerce] paid a visit to Yugoslavia a few weeks ago. The visit resulted in a number of good commercial and cultural benefits, results which help in strengthening policial relations between the two countries. Moreover, Yugoslavia is one of the founding members of the Nonaligned Movement while Iran is one of the important and determined countries in the movement. The meeting between myself and the Yugoslav foreign minister on the eve of the Nonaligned Conference can have a positive effect in understanding and cooperation between the two countries in the work of the forthcoming meetings.

When asked what the agenda of the meeting of the foreign ministers would be, Mr Velayati answered: Dealing with the political, military and economic crises in the world and problems faced by Third World countries and member states of the Nonaligned Movement. These matters are the main issues to be worked out at the Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi.

He added: One of the important matters faced by the Nonaligned Movement is the problem of Cambodia and the partisan stance taken by various sides on the issue. On the one hand China and Southeast Asian countries, as well as some other nonaligned countries support the regime which in fact is headed by Sihanouk. On the other hand the present Cambodian regime of Heng Samrin is supported by Vietnam and other nonaligned countries. The two groups for or against the regime of Pol Pot or Heng Samrin within the Nonaligned Movement do not agree on who should occupy the Cambodian seat. One group wants Sihanouk to be invited to the Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi to speak as one of the founders of the movement while others oppose such a move. So this dispute exists.

Afghanistan is another matter which has caused disagreement among nonaligned countries and will engender hot debates at nonaligned meetings.

Another matter is Latin America and the interferences of the United States in Nicaragua and El Salvador. We will have long discussions in this connection. Other issues concern Namibia and the aggressions of racist South Africa against Namibia as well as economic difficulties faced by Third World countries. In this latter connection the Islamic Republic has proposals to put forward: one concerns the proposal of his excellency Khamene'i concerning the setting up of a fund, the other to make possible the exchange of technology between Third World countries. The next matter concerns the locale of the 8th Nonaligned Conference which numerous countries want to host: Syria, Libya and North Korea. Baghdad has also volunteered for the 8th conference but we believe the conditions which resulted in the 7th Nonaligned Conference not being held in Baghdad still hold good and the holding of the 8th conference in Baghdad would not be in the interests of the Nonaligned Movement.

In conclusion the minister of foreign affairs referred to reasons for the active participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international organizations by saying: Participation in international organizations is not a full and 100-percent endorsement of such organizations but it is not at all advisable that we be absent from international meetings because at these meetings decisions are made concerning the whole world of which we are a part. If we are not present they will decide for us in our absence. Therefore it makes sense that we be there to defend our rights. So participation is not the same as full endorsement of an organization. Another point is that if international organizations have difficulties they must be properly corrected or institutions set up which will not have problems and which will be beneficial and in line with the justice-seeking aspirations of human beings. This can be done by activity and participation. World problems cannot be solved by estrangement, isolation and retreat into self. We believe the Islamic Republic of Iran can have an important role in the world, given its very progressive aspiration, Islam, the power of its government, bearing

in mind the massive popular support it has, and its very alert leadership. So, how can we carry out our role unless we are present? We must go to the United Nations and say our say from its podium to worldwide audiences. I have so far spoken three times at the United Nations and my speeches are available there. There we carried only the word which was the view of the Islamic Republic. Where else can we find such a tribune from which to say our say. We go and talk and even tell the United Nations its weaknesses. What better opportunity than this? We go to the Nonaligned Movement and express our views concerning noncommitment and nonalignment. If we do not go and speak, a decisive factor will be absent from the world political scene and this would not be in the interest of the Third World countries.

5854

CSO: 4640/138

MUSAVI-TABRIZI TALKS ABOUT LIBERALS, WAR, FOES OF REVOLUTION

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Feb 83 p 4

/Text/ Hojjat al-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi, chief revolution prosecutor, in his recent trip to Tabriz participated in the ceremonies held by the penitents of Tabriz Penitentiary on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution's victory and talked about matters related to the Islamic Revolution's achievements and enemies' conspiracies against the Islamic Republic.

At the beginning, he defined the term "oppressed" from the Koranic point of view and said: "Oppressed is a person who is deprived but makes an effort to release himself from his deprivation; otherwise, there were people during the previous regime who despite being deprived prayed for the success of the shah. The term 'oppressed,' therefore, does not apply to such persons. The real oppressed is he who rises against deprivation, tyranny and bullying."

The chief revolution prosecutor continued: "Today we see very clear evidence of that holy verse among the muslim nation of Iran. The nation of Iran rose against the tyranny it was subjected to and determined from the beginning that it did not wish to be colonized. Now, after the victory of the revolution, if we should say that the United States and the Soviets and others may do whatever they wish and, for example, set Lebanon and Afghanistan on fire, then we will not be committed /Muslims/. We must rise against any tyranny which occurs anywhere in the world; and we must feel committed and obligated to any movement action which takes place."

Position of Liberals in Relation to United States

The chief revolution prosecutor also said: "After the victory of the revolution, the United States was satisfied that we should remain nonaligned and that we should not interfere in its affairs. If we did this, the United States would have been satisfied. Concerning the liberals and the freedom movement, for example, although legally speaking we could not claim that they were servants of the United States, however, we could claim that they questioned our relations with the United States /and suggested/ we only should not become aligned and as such we should have nothing to do with the United States. We have official documents whereby the United States wanted to support the provisional government. Then one day an agent came to Iran disguised as a journalist and interviewed Dr Yazdi. On his return to the United States, during an interview,

among other things, he praised Dr Yazdi. Later, we noticed that this had caused the U.S. spy den in Iran to protest, saying that Dr Yazdi's commendation had worked against it. Or as I recall, one day in the Majlis, Mr Kho'iniha stated: "We are at war with the United States"; one of these liberals reacted: "Mister, do not say we are at war with the United States; we have nothing to do with the United States." As such, in accordance with the Koranic verse we can not be considered oppressed if we remain indifferent toward superpowers."

"Or, if after the revolution, we had collaborated with the Soviet Union, definitely it would have aided us instead of aiding Saddam. But we did no such thing; we were the first country to protest against the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan."

Musavi-Tabizi, referring to the various plots by the domestic elements of the superpowers, then said: "From the first day of the victory of the revolution, the domestic elements, instigated by the United States and the Soviets, and for the purpose of preventing the exportation of Islamic revolution, began plotting against the Islamic Republic; and you have seen instances of this yourself here in Azarbayjan and Tabriz. The hypocrites, who had stolen the weapons from the armory, rose to destroy the revolution; and in so doing, they even went further by preventing their followers from reading the newspapers ETTELA'AT and KEYHAN and watching television."

"In this connection, if you read the MOJAHED, MIZAN, and ENQELAB-E ESLAMI newspapers of that time, you will get a clear picture of the situation. MIZAN, for instance, had published an article which included a sarcastic point: 'if there is a shortage of meat, then death to the United States; so, the hypocrites have so far behaved as such, and the people themselves should make their own judgment about them. The hypocrites massacred about 600 oppressed grocers, shoemakers, and mobilization members during September last year in the streets and alleys while claiming they were struggling against imperialism, and they used the slogan 'death to the United States.'"

On the Imposed War

On the imposed war, Musavi-Tabrizi said: "If you hear the aliens making propaganda that Saddam has purchased the most modern aircraft, that he has become very powerful and so on, you should realize that all of those are propagated for the purpose of frightening the Islamic warriors."

He pointed out that by the grace of God, the country's foreign exchange situation has greatly improved so much that now the country's foreign currency reserves have even surpassed the level it had before the American nest of spies was taken over.

The country's chief revolution prosecutor addressing the penitents said: "Brothers, we should reflect a while and not allow insinuations to create deviations in our minds."

At the end, he emphasized that the only country in the world which is neither pro-West nor pro-East is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meeting With Clerics

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi also spoke about the heavy responsibilities of the clergy in the present situation of the country at the meeting of the Clergy Society in Tabriz held by the Organization of Islamic Guidance and Propaganda. Among other things, he said that our society today acts on the basis of Islamic principles. During the 4 years of the Islamic Revolution, profound changes have taken place, even far beyond expectation.

The chief revolution prosecutor added: "If during the era of Satan, the course of the movement was directed toward corruption, mischief-making, and destruction or pro-Western inclination, now it is exactly the opposite. Our society is moving toward divinity."

He pointed out that the country's youth have truly been revolutionized, and this can be observed in their oral expression and actual deeds.

Musavi-Tabrizi added: "When we say that the country's youth have been so revolutionized we should realize that the clergy's responsibilities have also become heavier and more difficult in proportion. Therefore, we should control our behavior even in our household because our children, our daughters and sons, watch us at home, and they even question us. In any case, after the Islamic Revolution, by the power of God, all the corruption and shameful stigma have disappeared; instead the doors of mercy and victory have been opened for the muslims. It is for this reason that the clergy should equip themselves with virtue and knowledge; they should also have discipline, should coordinate and should have a strong and orderly organization so that they can cope with the social changes."

He added: "In the past, one of the goals of the era of colonialization was to make the seminaries and clergy void of content and knowledge; it educated the society in such a way that it looked down on the toiling clergy."

Musavi-Tabrizi, continuing his remarks, emphasized collective studying, using various books, and reporting result of such studies, as well as organizing research and lecture groups from among competent scholars.

At the end, he reminded the audience that teaching at the seminaries should be traditional, as indicated by the nation's imam and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri; and along with that, the administration of seminaries should have an orderly organization so that only pious men could have access to them.

12343

CSO: 4640/134

REVOLUTION SEEN BUILDING UP INSIDE REVOLUTION

Paris IRAN LIBRE in French 14 Mar 83 pp 2-3

[Text] Since the beginning of the year, Khomeyni has pledged himself to liberalize his regime, the Islamic Republic is destabilized. The Imam's lieutenants are tearing each other to pieces in public, the mullahs and the pasdaran [Islamic soldiers] confront each other openly, the militants of the Toudeh [Communist Party] run the government down. As for the population, they have the feeling that an irreversible event has just taken place and soon the hour of deliverance will be at hand.

Women Take Off the Veil

The women of Iran are coming out of their lethargy. They refuse to submit to degradation any longer and openly flout the prohibitions of the faghigh [scholars]. More and more of these women are tearing off their veils and going out into the streets without the chador [veil]. Observing their behavior, the newspaper FEMME D'AUJOURD'HUI (Zanz e Rouz) rises up in rebellion and in one of its recent editions published an open letter to Khomeyni, part of which reads as follows: "O Imam! Do you know that women are not exhibiting themselves without veils and that agents of imperialism are now being seen everywhere?"

The mullahs are highly displeased and do not hide the fact. On Saturday 5 March, the minister of the interior denounced "the insolence of women who abuse the excessive tolerance from which they benefit." He stated that from this point forward, "the police will be under orders to use force in requiring the wearing of the veil and will throw all women who refuse to comply into Evin prison."

In spite of everything, the Iranians have refused to capitulate and the forces of order have shown no eagerness to censure their behavior. Ladjevardi, the attorney general, has sworn in a public speech that things will not be allowed to go on in this way.

Even DJOMHOURI ESLAMI [Islamic Republic], the official organ of the Islamic Republic, has criticisms to make. Under the guise of permitting its readers to express themselves, it publishes the following texts:

The Mayors' Game of Musical Chairs

"In Beheshti, we have but one goal: to demand respect for the provisions of the Khomeyni decree, which, in its eight points, lays down the conditions for an improvement of the citizens' statute. Alas! It must be said that the situation in our small town has become untenable. Some time ago, the mayor's office began roadwork on the main street, which links our community with several densely populated villages. Because of the roadwork, the water supply and the electricity have been cut off and telephone service has been disrupted. The mayors' game of musical chairs makes the situation even more difficult. Every time a new person is appointed, he makes his predecessor responsible for all our troubles and uses this as an excuse for doing nothing.

Where is the Material Going? Where is the Money Going?

For some time, in the Normak quarter of Teheran, all dealings having to do with household equipment have been centralized in a warehouse on Haft Howzec Street. To cite but one example, anyone who wants to acquire a new refrigerator has to report to this place. Before he can be satisfied, he is required to bring his used appliance and leave it there, under the pretext that he is helping out the troops at the front. The residents of the quarter are not happy about this and find that this coercion is completely illogical. Most of them would prefer to give their old household equipment to friends or to members of their families, who are usually in pressing need of them. Therefore, we are asking for the immediate repeal of measures that are abusive and aggravating. Further, we protest against the conduct of the members of the committee of this quarter, who deduct 250 tomans in advance on each article. We ask two questions: Where is the material going? Where is the money going?

The Cry of a Pasdār

Who is responsible for the disastrous condition of the only maternity clinic in the Ghom area? I think that the person or persons responsible should be punished. I humbly ask the minister to pay a surprise visit to this clinic. He will get an education. The patients are carried on stretchers and the covers and sheets are stained with the blood of the patients who came before them. The floor is littered with cigarette butts and fecal matter. The medical supplies are filthy and, as a result, many children have died of infection. I am a pasdār and it is in the interest of the Islamic Republic that I am reporting these facts. I hope that the government will take my protest into account. As for me, I think that the Minister in question should be called on for an explanation.

8089

CSO: 4619/44

'CULTURAL REVOLUTION' STAFF MEMBER DISCUSSES UNIVERSITY CURRICULA

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Feb 83 p 2

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the newspaper ETTELA'AT, Dr 'Ali Shari' atmadari, member of the Cultural Revolution Staff, discussed the staff's planning with regard to the humanities, preparing university textbooks, reopening masters degree programs, and other issues pertaining to the country's universities.

With regard to planning concerning the humanities in the universities, he said:

Planning in the Cultural Revolution Staff is done with consideration for the scholarly disciplines and the country's needs. In this planning, university human resources and educational equipment are kept in mind; in our planning that pertains to the humanities, as far as possible we try to organize educational programs in ways that conform to the country's needs. For some fields, such as geography, some of the universities have suggested subdivisions such as urban and rural geography; with regard to the application of previous programs, plans are being made, in the course of studying existing resources and new faculty personnel, to establish new disciplines. In the fields of psychology, education, and clinical psychology, as well as the teaching of exceptional children, both of which are disciplines needed by government organizations, separate departments will be established, so that holders of masters degrees in these fields will be able to work in fields that conform to their training after graduation.

Staff Selection

With regard to the selection of committed, specialist professors for the universities and alleviating the shortage of them, Dr Shari'atmadari said: In any case, in the humanities, and especially in the educational fields, professors must both have the necessary specialization in the field concerned and a commitment to this sensitive system, in order to be able to take the necessary steps to educate teachers and useful people for this society. In the educational fields and in the primary branches of psychology, the number of specialists is actually limited; even in the past many professors of education either lacked the necessary specialities in this field, or were specialists

in ancillary educational fields such as educational administration, educational technology, or the education of exceptional children. Therefore, we are also short of specialized people in these kinds of fields; in the meantime, we must exercise the necessary care in order that people who are committed to this revolution and believe in it will undertake to provide instruction in the classrooms.

Seminar Results

With regard to results obtained at seminars organized by the Cultural Revolution Staff, he added: Educational training programs of the past must be changed, and this has been done to a certain extent. Specialists in every field must be employed in planning pertaining to that field; in the meantime, people whose educational background is close to the educational fields must be given the necessary preparation in unofficial meetings and seminars in order to prepare them to do this work. The staff has taken steps in this direction. Weekly meetings attended by a number of colleagues are being held; it is hoped that with the continuation of these meetings and the formation of educational core groups in the universities we will be able to alleviate the shortage of manpower in these fields.

Fields in Demand

With regard to the fields in demand in the humanities, the ministries, and various institutions, Dr Shari'atmadari said:

Some fields in the humanities, such as management, accounting, and economic planning are in demand in various organizations. The Ministry of Education is also in need of teachers from many fields in the humanities. With contacts that are being made with officials in the Ministry of Education, it is hoped that students in this field can be employed in the various organizations.

University Textbooks

Dr Shari'atmadari said concerning methods of preparing university textbooks: The preparation of university textbooks has always been presented as a complicated issue. In the humanities, and especially in education, there are only a handful of basic books, and most of these books have been prepared by people who are not specialists in the respective fields. We are endeavoring, while studying existing textbooks and consulting with professors, to meet the present teacher training needs, and, in some fields where the reliability of existing books is established, to make use of those books. Meanwhile, the necessary steps must be taken to prepare the necessary books with the assistance of professors. In the interim, there are a number of books ready for publication at the Cultural Revolution Staff publishing center, and they will be used in the future.

Masters Degree Programs

In conclusion, he said concerning masters degree programs in the country's universities:

We have a number of students in masters degree programs; these programs have been prepared by some of the planning groups, and other groups are currently working on planning projects.

Instructional guidelines and the framework for masters degree programs have almost been finished by guidance experts on the Cultural Revolution Staff; we will take steps to reopen the masters degree program for the coming academic year after the teaching programs have been completed. In the meantime new planning is gradually being introduced into these programs.

9310

CSO: 4640/145

SUPREME COUNCIL CALLS UPON IRAQIS TO RISE AGAINST SADDAM

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Feb 83 p 12

[Text] NEWS SERVICE--The propaganda unit of the executive committee of the Supreme Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iraq announced in a message to the Iraqi brothers:

"Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, and heal the breasts of believers." [Koranic verse]

O children of the Muslim nation in Iraq.... O zealous men of honor.... O martyr-nurturing nation.... O you who have lived through Iraq's bloody trials, and felt the afflictions of your afflicted Islamic community and nation.... O you against whom the forces of oppression, Satan, and imperialism have plotted: Know that the Muslim nation of Iraq and the luminous Islamic revolution are at a very important and critical stage, because the blows that the brave children of Islam have dealt to the subservient 'Aflagist regime have brought it to the brink of collapse. The arrogant, imperialist superpowers, and especially America, France, and Israel, are hastening to aid and support the subservient 'Aflagist regime, which has driven you from your homes and subjected you to oppression and injustice because you have turned to Islam and Islamic revolution. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children, however, are still suffering the most violent kinds of torture and persecution in the secret Ba'th prisons; every day tens of them are martyring themselves for your sake, and for the sake of your dignity and honor. O brothers, remember your orthodox martyrs, because they died in order to free you from oppression and injustice; they died in order to put you on the path of truth and discovery, and the path of glory and dignity for Iraq; they died to save the nation - Iraq from idolaters and criminals. Remember the great martyr of Islam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Sadr, who was martyred for his insistence on Islamic revolution, because he had faith from the beginning that precious blood must be given freely, because a revolution will not materialize without blood, and freedom cannot be obtained without sacrifice.

O brothers, the time has come for all of us to take up arms and advance firmly on the enemy. Let us expect nothing save victory or martyrdom, especially since now the brave forces of Islam, under the command of the Imam of the nation and the hope of the oppressed of the world, Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni (May God Extend His Shadow) have resolved, God

willing, to save the Muslim nation of Iraq. O children of Islam, know that many of the brave children of Iraq are now fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with their brothers in the Islamic forces in order to defend Iraq and the honor of the Iraqi nation, and to glorify the word of God. Some of them have attained the high station of martyrdom in order to reach the lofty and sacred aims of Islam. Be assured that victory is near, through the power and might of God and the insistence of the heroic children of Islam. O brothers, today as the Supreme Revolutionary Council of Iraq has taken on its critical responsibility to Islam and the Muslim nation of Iraq, it calls upon all Iraqi brothers of noble birth and the various peoples of Iraq to participate with the volunteers in mobilizing the Muslim people's forces of Iraq for war against unbelief, to destroy oppression, to obtain a liberated, noble, and dear Iraq which will attain blessings and prosperity under the shadow of Islam.

O crusaders, the martyrs in heaven call upon you to do this; the orphans, and those who have lost their families in every bereaved Iraqi home call upon you to take this noble stand; those who now endure torture in the secret prisons and black pits of the infidel Ba'th Party call you to this great goal. Your noble women in Iraq call upon you to help liberate them from the executioners. O brothers, step forward to volunteer, because Iraq is calling you, the greatest responsibility is yours, and victory is yours. God is your supporter, and, God willing, the day when the criminal 'Aflagist regime will be overthrown is near, and they will be sent to Hell by the capable hands of the pious believers among the children of the Muslim nation of Iraq.

"If you aid the cause of God, he will help you and plant your feet firmly."
[Koranic verse]

The Supreme Revolutionary Council of Iraq, 14 February 1983.

9310

CSO: 4640/147

IRGC DENOUNCES FRENCH POLICY OF ARMS AID TO IRAQ

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Mar 83 p 8

[Text] In effect, those countries which gained abundant economic profit in the first stage of turning Iraq towards the West were European.

With the continuation of the war and Saddam's free hand to purchase military equipment from the West, which seemed somewhat difficult before the war because of his dependence on the United States [as published], Europe began a long-term political pursuit of the complete domination of Iraq. Of course, the domination by Europe was not unrelated to the role of the United States in Iraq and is, in fact, considered the first stage of Saddam's exit from the Eastern arena.

Important European countries, such as France, England and Germany, have been able to increase their exports to Iraq several-fold during the war and, at the same time, have been able to sign large contracts with the regime of Iraq, ensuring the continuation of these relations. Politically, these countries made efforts to support Saddam and an imposed peace. But, at the same time, they did not hesitate to strengthen Saddam militarily to enable him to resist the Iranian demands. The role of the French government among these countries is especially significant, which we will refer to here.

France and the Imposed War

The French policy in regards to the imposed war was evident in its support of Iraq from the first day. The main reason behind this support was France's antagonism towards the Islamic revolution which, in cooperation with the United States, it has taken steps to destroy. During the offices of both Giscard d'Estaing and Francois Mitterrand, the French government has pursued several objectives in supporting Iraq. One of these

objectives has been to cooperate with the United States to establish greater domination over Iraq in order to minimize the Soviet influence in that country. Another has been to protect and expand its economic interests in Iraq. And, finally, the most important objective has been to prepare Iraq to resist the effects of the Islamic revolution in the region. Hence, we can say that France has been less than neutral in the aggression of Iraq on Iran. This claim is evidenced by the French policy concerning the war and the military support of that country for Iraq.

Only a few days after the imposed war began, the American newspaper, NEW YORK TIMES, referred to the silence of Europe in regards to the aggression of Iraq on Iran and wrote: Given that they are dependent on the region for their oil imports, which are vital to their security, it seems strange that the Europeans have remained silent in regards to the aggression of Iraq on Iran. This newspaper claims that French oil imports from Iraq amount to 600,000 barrels per day, which makes France the largest customer for Iraqi oil.

This newspaper then added: If the European countries which rely so heavily on Iraqi oil are faced with the cut off of this oil, they must either suffer the consequences themselves or pressure Saddam to end the war.

We can more or less conclude that the West will continue its support of Iraq if the oil of that region is secured. This policy clearly shows the enmity of the West, in particular the United States and France, towards Iran and their support for Iraq. Despite a decrease in oil production, we see that France continues its support for Iraq and places no pressure on the regime of Saddam to end the war. The reason is clear. Persian Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia have ensured that the European countries will not become dependent on the oil by increasing their production and have forced these countries to continue their support for the regime of Iraq. In November 1980, with the Iraqi forces in Iran and the occupation of some parts of Iran in the south and west, the WASHINGTON POST quoted (Ronald Kovan), a reliable French source, and wrote:

Iraq's defeat would be the greatest indication of instability in the Persian Gulf. He adds: Despite the uncritical official statements, the French press indicate that much raw material is delivered to Iraq. Clearly, France is using all of its power to prevent the fall of Saddam and it seems that France is searching for a way to somehow end the war before it is too late.

This analysis came at a time when France was trying to strengthen its position in Iraq during the height of the war. For this reason, simultaneous with its aid to Iraq, it undertook apparent

efforts in the European community to end the war and the French president declared his concern about the continuation of the war.

With the continuation of the war, the military role of France in Iraq expanded even with the opposition of the Socialist government of France to the delivery of three naval ships. The French government began the delivery of 60 Mirage F-1 airplanes to Iraq. Following the delivery of the French Mirage jets to Iraq, France began to deliver other weapons needed by that country. According to (ALMAJALEH), published in London, quoting an informed source in France, the regimes of France and Iraq have recently reached agreement on a \$1 billion arms contract to equip Iraq with heavy artillery tanks. Of course, the date of the above-mentioned report is in mid-fall of 1981, during the first stage of the Iranian victories, that is, the ending of the Abadan siege.

Three months later, on 7 February 1982, foreign news agencies reported that Iraq had purchased a series of heavy military equipment and arms from France for \$700 million.

The delivery of large amounts of French arms increased during the war, especially during the victorious Tariq ol-Qods operations. After the success of Iran in destroying and forcing out the forces of the Ba'thist enemy, in cleansing the Bostan region and liberating the city of Bostan, Iraq once again looked to France for military weapons. According to ALSAFIR newspaper, on 5 February 1983, Saudi Arabia announced its readiness to pay for the arms provided by France to the regime of Iraq in the war against Iran. According to this newspaper, the unofficial figures last October indicate that the amount of arms ordered by the regime of Iraq from France were estimated to be Fr 10 billion.

The amount in French military aid to Iraq does not end with all this. According to the German newspaper, (ZU DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG), on 28 July 1982, in the war against Iran, Iraq uses an anti-air system called (ronald), built jointly by France and Germany. According to this newspaper, Iraq placed an order in the amount of DM 4 billion for 150 anti-air (ronald) systems to be mounted on French (AMX-35) tanks. However, the number of systems delivered to Iraq has not yet been revealed.

We see that all the above-mentioned weapons during the war have been put at the disposal of Iraq to encourage Saddam to continue the war and refuse to accept the conditions of Iran, whereas, the delivery of three small ships, for which the contracts had been signed before the revolution and which were already paid for, faced a thousand and one problems. Of course, France has taken other steps continuously against Iran, the most important of which is its support of the Iranian fugitive

counterrevolutionaries, from Bakhtiar to Rajavi, and has, in this manner as well, declared its support for Iraq.

The Economic Role of France in Iraq

France has played a significant role in the economic affairs of Iraq. In fact, this relationship is mutual, France being among the major customers for Iraq's oil. The sale of Iraqi oil to France amounts to 600,000 barrels per day. This amount declined to a minimum with the onset of the war. Not only did the war not result in a reduction in French exports to Iraq, but, France retained its place in economic relations with Iraq, after Japan and Germany. It appears that today, France's objective is to end the war, because, first of all, during this period, France has signed large contracts with Iraq which can be carried out only when the war ends and oil production increases. On the other hand, the continuation of the war might endanger the rule of Saddam. LE MONDE wrote in an article on 19 July 1982: "The continuation of the Iran-Iraq war has worried a French company which is responsible for pipe installations in connection with the health network of Iraq." Concerning the Fr 45 billion project and the danger that the continuation of the war might pose, this newspaper writes: "Also, 60 other French companies which signed large contracts with Iraq before the war are similarly anxious, because Iraq has been severely damaged economically. According to this newspaper, the war has not caused a decrease in French exports to Iraq, rather, the level of these exports increased by 73.3 percent in 1981 and the same amount in 1982. Considering the expansion of military aid to Iraq, the worries of France have increased in an unprecedented manner with the Iranian victories, especially the Fath ol-Mobin and Beyt ol-Moqaddas.

After the liberation of Khorramshahr, (LUPERNIT), in an article entitled "France Counts on Baghdad," writes: "The events in the Iran-Iraq war have seriously worried France. The amount of collateral which has been taken into consideration to cover the possibility of non-payment of the French export contracts with Iraq reached Fr 20 billion for Iraq (of which Fr 15 billion is for arms). Given this amount, the fall of the Baghdad regime would place a heavy burden on the budget of the French government."

Naturally, the existence of such economic interests in Iraq on the part of France, which have resulted in the significant political dependence of Saddam on the West, has provided the grounds for the efforts of the West to coerce Iran into accepting an imposed cease-fire, which we will discuss.

France, Iraq and the Ramazan Operations

Considering France's expensive economic contracts with Iraq, including non-military ones, and considering the consolidation of the power of the Islamic revolution in the defeat of the regime of Saddam, international efforts were formed to prevent Iran from invading Iraq, supported especially by the Arab countries. Following the U.S. attack on southern Lebanon, French officials frequently declared their open support for Iraq and stressed the necessity for ending the war and establishing peace based on the 1975 Algerian agreement. For instance, Claude Cheysson announced in a speech in the French Parliament that in their opinion, the 1975 agreement was a good basis for a solution to the Iran-Iraq disputes. Also in this speech, he pointed out the necessity of an end to the war which threatens security.

The entry onto Iraqi soil, despite the conspiracy of the Security Council to save Saddam, and the onset of the Ramazan operations were immediately faced with the positions taken by the European countries, particularly France.

According to an IRNA report, Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister, in a meeting with the foreign minister of Iraq on 16 July 1982, said: "France has shown its support for Iraq and in France's view, any sort of threat against the national unity of Iraq is an unquestionable threat to the stability of the region."

In this statement, he tries to discourage Iran from continuing the Ramazan operations and threatens that, for instance, the Ramazan operations will confront severe resistance.

After the end of the five annihilation stages of the Ramazan operations, Claude Cheysson once again emphasized French support for Iraq. In an interview with the Kuwait newspaper (AL-ANBA'), he explained the overall support of the French government for Saddam and said: "The establishment of balance in the region requires an independent Iraq." He then emphasized: "Iraq is of special importance to the Western world and, on the whole, to the entire world."

Hence, France in taking such positions has succeeded in transferring an independent Iraq from the Communists to the Western world.

Saddam's interviews with TIME MAGAZINE and LE MONDE, published in France, are Iran's response that it has accepted the invitation of the West, particularly of France.

In his interview with LE MONDE, published in France on 29 July 1982, about relations between Iraq and France, Saddam

said: "Our relations with France are satisfactory and demonstrate mutual trust. But, we are interested in strengthening these relations. I have not yet had the opportunity to meet with Mr Mitterand. Because of the war, since two years ago, I have not left Iraq and Mr Mitterrand might consider it difficult to visit Baghdad under the present circumstances. Nevertheless, our meeting as soon as a suitable opportunity can be found seems necessary."

We see that with his anti-imperialist rhetoric during the elections, as a socialist, Mitterrand presented a good front in visiting Israel and signing mutual cooperation treaties, even for nuclear cooperation. But, during the war, he has dominated Saddam, who pretends to be anti-Zionist to such an extent that he expresses his personal disappointment in not having had the opportunity to meet with Mitterrand. Meanwhile, on the surface, the West might appear to be the winner in the Iran-Iraq war. Even if this happens to be so for a time, naturally, the main loser will be Iran [as published]. Today, everyone knows that the real loser in this war will be the Soviet Union, which at one time chose to be silent about this aggression due to its various interests and even endorsed it in one form or another. Nevertheless, the point must be emphasized clearly that in order to defeat Zionism, which is supported by the West with all its might, it is necessary to defeat Iraq, whose ties today with the supporters of Zionism are very close. It will be proven with the continuation of the war that neither the United States nor Europe, particularly not France, will be the winners in the war. Perhaps this time, with the defeat of the regime of Iraq, they will be in an even worse position than that of the Soviet Union.

Political Office of the Revolution Guards Corps

10,000

CSO: 4640/164

AMNESTY PROPOSAL, JUDICIAL ISSUES DISCUSSED BY CHIEF JUSTICE

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Feb 83 p 22

[Text] The News Service reports that following the 8-point directive issued by the supreme Islamic leader, a large number of those convicted by revolution, military and civil courts will be released from prison on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution in accordance with a 9-article plan of the Supreme Judicial Council.

In announcing this during an exclusive interview with ETTELA'AT, Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili responded to questions concerning the basis for prisoner pardon, the accomplishments of the Supreme Court, the cases of prisoners in limbo, the activities of penal courts and other question relating to the judicial establishment.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili had this to say concerning the pardoning of prisoners: Those convicted by revolution, military and civil courts will be released from prison in two stages on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution. As a first step, a list of those convicted by the revolution, military and civilian courts has been drawn up comprising 1,200 names. The list has been submitted by the Office of Pardons and Penal Records to the Supreme Court which in turn will send it to the Imam for his final directive.

Yesterday, the Supreme Judicial Council prepared a 9-article plan for the pardoning of prisoners. According to this, a large number of prisoners convicted by revolution, military and civil courts will be set free. We also sent this plan to the Imam yesterday for his approval. We hope that the Imam of the people, with the compassionate heart that he has will approve the plan which will then be transmitted to the various courts to implement. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: We hope that on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution a large number of those convicted will return to the bosom of their families.

Two-Stage Release of Prisoners

He continued: On the anniversary of the victory of the magnificent revolution, those convicted by revolution, narcotics, military and general civil courts will, according to the order of the Imam of the People, be

released from prison in two stages but this pardon will not apply to seditious and counterrevolution minigroups because the investigation of the case-files of minigroups requires a different process. As a result, their convictions also follow that process and their pardon also requires special consideration. So, counter-revolution and seditious groups will not come under this general amnesty.

Prisoners in Limbo

The president of the Supreme Court had this to say about prisoners whose cases are in limbo: We have two types of prisoners whose cases have not been finalized. First of all, the system of taking those accused to revolution and civil prosecution offices where they were questioned and their case-files completed before being sent to court took much time. During this phase, that is from the time of sending the accused to prosecutors office until their completed files are sent to court, it a period of limbo for the prisoners. So this period cannot be referred to as the state of limbo of the accused. However, if you mean that the accused are not tried even though their case-files have been readied, I would have to say there are a few of this category resulting from the special method followed by the offices of prosecutors. Now, however, revolution courts do not investigate cases which do not concern them but only those cases which fall within their jurisdiction. According to a report given to us recently, the work of the revolution courts has decreased substantially.

Abolition of the Supreme Court

Speaking about the activities and the work of the Supreme Court Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: Prior to the new reorganization, the Supreme Court had 10 branches, with each branch having a chief, three advisors and one assistant judge. Cases which required final decision on appeal were sent to the Supreme Court whose heavy load work had reached a back log of 31,500 files. When we came to the Supreme Court, a number of things caused us to change its organization. First of all, the new reorganization laws approved by the Majlis had been transmitted to us and we were duty-bound to implement them. As a result, the staff of each branch of the Supreme Court was reduced from five to two persons, a judge and an advisor. Secondly, the Islamic penal laws have been approved and these casefiles come to the Supreme Court for review of appeal. It was therefore necessary that the judges on the Supreme Court be expert in applying Islamic punishment. So we had no choice but to make use of a number of religious figures. The third point was that seasoned judges usually work in the Supreme Court so that the ages of some of them were high and/or some of them were not too productive in work, and so on. So for this reason too we had to look into the situation and finally abolished the Supreme Court and immediately thereafter set up 20 new branches of a new Supreme Court, with each branch staffed by a judge and an advisor and we invited about 10 respected religious jurisprudents to head the Supreme Court branches. We also invited 18 to 20 former judges, at their own request. The Supreme

Court changes resulted in a number of general court judges being assigned to the Supreme Court, some of them becoming alternate members, assistant judges and deputy advisors. We carried out changes and reshuffling in the Supreme Court and now, according to the new organization, we have 20 Supreme Court branches, with 18 of them now functioning and two more to be set up soon. Of these 18 branches, 8 deal with civil matters, 10 with penal cases. In order to speed up the disposal of cases we decided that branches 1-10 should handle leftover cases and distributed 31,500 case-files among them. Since penal courts had also started their work and were sending cases to the Supreme Court, we said that branches 11-20 would be dealing with new files sent to the Supreme Court. As a result of this orderly program, the operation of the Supreme Court improves daily and according to available figures, last month, that is in January, 1607 case-files were received and registered at the Supreme Court office, and 1617 cases were finalized. In other words, if we did not have the 31,500 past cases on our hands in the Supreme Court, we would be able to dispose of all case-files in the same month as received.

He continued: With the assignment of 10 respected students of religious law to the Supreme Court, no longer will penal courts hand down non-Islamic and religiously contrary decisions because every decision arrived at by the country's courts will be sent to the Supreme Court, unless it involves a case which has been finalized in the first stage of its process. Otherwise all decision of penal courts will be sent to the Supreme Court. If a decision runs counter to religious tenet, it will be vacated by the Supreme Court. As for civil courts, since our laws have been drawn up according to tenets of Islam, in some cases where no great shortcomings were involved from the religious point of view, we merely asked for a correction. We hope that with the laws now under consideration in the majlis, these defects will also be eliminated.

Activities of Penal Courts

Referring to penal courts, the president of the Supreme Court said: We also used new organizational laws in drawing up the new make-up of penal courts in the reorganization of the Justice Ministry of the Islamic Republic. Having new reorganization laws before us, we could no longer have penal and misdemeanor courts as before and therefore abolished them, replacing them with general penal courts no 1 and general penal courts no 2. For example according to calculation, we have set up 40 general courts in Tehran, from branch no 40 through no 50 ten penal courts no 1 and from branch no 50 and up penal courts as required. I believe we have also set up 15-20 branches of penal court. Decisions of penal courts no 2 are final but in the case of penal courts no 1, before a judgment is handed down the decision in question is first referred to the Supreme Court where the case-file is reviewed by two judges and returned to the same branch of the court if it does not run counter to religion and is not contrary to Islam, so that the judgment might be announced. If judges of the Supreme

Court consider a decision or a file-case to have been questionable from the investigative point of view they will make it null and void so that they may re-investigate the case. If the court branch concerned did not accept the viewpoint, the file-case will be referred to another branch for investigation. The activities of the general penal courts are very good, with many previous cases left in limbo having been investigated and necessary judgment announced. Work is proceeding smoothly in penal courts and prison officials have expressed great satisfaction over the work of the penal courts, telling us that the affairs of the accused are being handled quicker, that the accused are no longer delayed at courts but that their cases are immediately looked into.

5854

CSO: 4640/133

AFGHAN REFUGEES WILL BE IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] At ceremonies opening the study seminar on the Afghan refugee problem, the Minister of the Interior said: With the proper implementation of a plan for identifying Afghan nations, which will be done soon throughout the country, movement of Afghan nationals will be precisely controlled and some activities which have caused problems for the struggles of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan will be stopped.

This seminar was attended by the political deputy of the Ministry of the Interior, political aides and representatives of the governor-generals, members of the Coordinating Council for Afghan Refugees in the Country's Provinces, and concerned organizations and groups. During their 3-day meeting, participants will study various issues concerning Afghans in Iran and search for ways to alleviate their difficulties. According to the same report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, Minister of the Interior, spoke at the opening session on the problems of Afghans in Iran and the necessity for the Islamic, revolutionary government and nation of Iran to assist the deprived and oppressed people of the world. In one portion of his talk, referring to the aggression of the occupying Soviet forces on Afghan soil and the number of Afghan Muslims who have taken refuge in our country, he said: Naturally, our Afghan brothers do not have the same expectations of having their needs met by other countries as they do of Iran, because of the fact that our revolution is Islamic, as is our government and our nation. In view of the fact that the superpowers of the East and West will ultimately reconcile themselves in some way to the Afghan issue, the pressure from some countries on Afghan refugees will increase. Consequently, our responsibility and mission to attend to Afghan affairs, to assist Muslims who are subject to aggression, and to help oppressed nations will be even greater. Therefore the government of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary responsibility to support the deprived and the oppressed demands at the outset that we come to the aid of our deprived neighbors, in view of the fact that the Islamic nature of our revolution places another mission on our shoulders. Continuing his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said: Honor the arrival of Afghan emigrants, and see to their needs as you do those of our own dear war refugees. In another portion of his remarks, he added: In the management of more than 1.5 million refugees, returnees from Iraq, and prisoners of war, the Islamic

Republic of Iran receives no help from any international organization, and this is in a time when our country is caught up in an imposed war and the management of war refugees.

The Minister of the Interior added: The government of the Islamic Republic, in view of the aspects and dimensions of world politics, has adopted a policy that both stops aggression and encroachment and assists the oppressed nation of Afghanistan in driving out the aggressor and determining its own fate; one manifestation of this is the formation of a Coordinating Council for Afghan Affairs, composed of concerned organizations and groups, in order to study and deal with Afghan problems and to show the Islamic nature of our revolution. In another portion of his talk, the Minister of the Interior discussed matters of employment and marriage, identification of property, health, salaries, and law enforcement in Afghan affairs, and said that one of the seminar's aims is to find solutions that are appropriate for the Islamic revolution of Iran.

According to the report, Mr 'Abbas Akhundi, political and social deputy in the Ministry of the Interior, then explained some things concerning the seminar's objectives.

The general seminar for studying the problems of Afghan refugees will study the various problems of Afghan emigrants through the formation of committees while it is in session.

9310

CSO: 4640/146

EDITORIALS CRITICIZE CURRENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maldistribution of Foodgrains

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 19 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] That the panchas in Kathmandu are not happy with the government about its failure to make arrangement for sale and distribution of foodgrains is clear from the resolution passed by the Kathmandu Diserict Panchayat. The District Panchayat has demanded that fair price shops be opened at different points of the town and also in different village panchayats. The concern of the District Panchayat is obvious keeping in view the fact that the government has in the first place not been able to control the price of essential consumer goods. About a dozen food depots opened some months ago have been closed down without giving any reason. The exhorbitant prices which the people are made to pay has become too big a crushing burden for them.

In the second place, the government has not also been able to create employment in order to enable the people to generate more income so that they could pay for what is offered to them by hoarders and profiteers. True the country suffered from drought but this does not mean that the government can afford to remain unconcerned about its responsibility to the people who are languishing in difficulties for making ends meet. A government can have very little reason to continue in power if it cannot tackle a pressing problem like that of foodgrain. The logical course for a government which fails to deliver the goods is to make room for others who claim the ability for feeding the hungry.

Incompetence of Government

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 21 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Mismanagement of foodgrains, decreasing productivity, rising corruption, decline in industrial growth and trade and utter indifference to the problems of people shown by the supposedly responsible government were the talking points of speakers who addressed the mass meeting at Janakpurdham

held after the huge pancha rally on Saturday to protest against the incompetence of the government. The rally, besides being the first of its kind, has special significance in the sense that some leaders have now openly arrayed themselves against the Government headed by Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa on specific issues. It is true that some of these panchas have personal scores to settle with the Prime Minister, but the message that there is disunity and widespread discontent among the panchas themselves cannot be mistaken.

Another noteworthy point which has clearly emerged is that there is a clear consensus among the panchas that Prime Minister Thapa, going by his performance so far, should be the last man to govern the country. He has sent the country to pot and can make it worse if he is to continue to operate as at present. As the Prime Minister, he has not been able to perform to say nothing about keeping the house in order. This is an unmistakable message of the pancha rally and it should be taken note of before the growing discontent starts sapping the very vitality of the panchayat polity. He claims credit for managing the referendum and the elections. This is a dubious claim at best. But even if it is justified, this does not give him the license to commit blunders endlessly. Time has come to put an end to his bunglings.

Lack of Labor Policy

Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 22 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Although there has been noticeable improvement in the labour trouble that has been ailing different industries of the country, the basic problems that have periodically agitated the labourers remain unsolved. Even today a large number of industries are not running to full capacity due to strikes. It has become imperative to take immediate steps to improve the industrial atmosphere, particularly when the present day slogan is for rapid industrialisation.

The government in this regard has no clear-cut labour policy. Like in other aspects of national life, it has satisfied itself by taking stop-gap measures aimed only at overcoming temporary difficulties. This practice has helped neither the labourers nor the employers; on the contrary, it has only worsened the situation resulting in frequent losing of industries and strikes by labourers on the slightest pretext.

The labourers on the other hand are not receiving the right kind of leadership. They have time and again been led by outsiders with political ambitions of their own rather than by those devoted to the development of healthy trade unionism. The labourers must realise that they have been politically exploited for too long and must do something about the existing leadership crisis if their agitations are to have far-reaching consequences.

CSO: 4600/502

UNITED STATES ACCUSED OF IGNORING PAKISTAN AS A NATION

Karachi JANG in Urdu 17 Jan 83 p 3

["Problems and Views" by Z.A. Suleri: "Can Pakistan Rely on the United States?"]

[Text] The impediments and apprehensions I discussed with regard to the development of relations with the United States do not affect the achievements of President Ziaul Haq's visit to the United States. Every country has the right to conclude a treat with any other country on the basis of its own interests. From Pakistan's point of view, President Ziaul Haq made a straightforward deal with the United States. President Ziaul Haq did not compromise on the question of the nation's foundations or its interests in his effort to seek economic aid and facilities to buy arms or display any flexibility in his stand. If the question of giving military bases to the United States was not raised, similarly on the question of Pakistan's nuclear capability, on which the United States exhibited great sensitivity, President Ziaul Haq did not make any concessions. Just as he reaffirmed his stand that Pakistan was not interested in making nuclear bombs, he also stressed Pakistan's need for low-cost fuel, for which he said Pakistan was seeking to acquire the ability to produce nuclear energy. During his entire tour he never made any apologetic statements. All his statements were announced in public, and he never said anything that adversely affected the country's pride and dignity. It was an exchange based on equality. If Pakistan needed economic aid and arms purchases for its defense, the United States, too, was committed to maintain the safety and security of the region considered to be of vital political and geographical importance to its global interests.

Despite fully supporting the propriety of this deal, the fact that it was a very delicate deal will have to be acknowledged. Delicate first because the deal pertains to the importance of a region, not with the people living in that region. (I will explain this complicated point further on.) Second, there are some obstacles blocking its completion. One such point I already discussed in my previous article, the point concerning the propaganda of the Hindus and Jews. Besides this, in view of the elections due to be held in 1984, the weakness of the Reagan administration itself could prove to be an obstacle because a period of 5-6 years is required for the deal to materialize,

during which period the possible occurrence of various political upheavals must also be kept in mind. But much more important is the fact that the authorities in power who signed the agreement purely from the point of view of their own interests will always be alert lest Pakistan adopt an attitude that could threaten to reduce American interests to a point at which they assume secondary importance and eventually become neglected. For example, if Pakistan were to receive an offer from the Soviet Union with regard to Afghanistan such it considered to be in accordance with its interests but which is not in line with American standards or which the Americans do not consider to conform to their extensive global interests and which could give rise to the possibility of differences of opinion between Pakistan and the United States as well as confrontation. At such a point the Reagan administration would feel free to reconsider the deal. Well, the United States once before had embargoed a supply of arms to Pakistan. As it is a nuclear arms embargo is hanging over our head and responsible members of the Reagan administration have already warned that if Pakistan explodes a nuclear device, even though it may be for peaceful purposes, they will not hesitate to annul the treaty. This short discussion reveals how difficult it is to accommodate this deal.

Now I will explain the point that the United States signed this agreement because of the importance of the region and not any other factor. Though the matter is painful, it is necessary to point out that the United States does recognize the political and geographical importance of Pakistan and seeks to protect it from Soviet Invasion so that its interests in the Gulf area are not endangered. But it is not prepared to give any importance to the people who live in this region. Therefore, I can only say that the United States signed the treaty with the region and not with the Pakistani nation. The truth is that in the United States, or for that matter anywhere else, our national identity is practically nonexistent. If India and Britain (Mrs Gandhi declared this a number of times) did not accept the two-nation theory, the United States also did not accept it. If the United States had acceded to Pakistani nationality it would not have been inciting the Bengalis for a number of years to separate from Pakistan. The role played by the United States during the 1971 crisis cannot be considered to be good. It is said that President Nixon displayed flexibility in favor of Pakistan. But if he wished, Pakistan would never have been divided. The ideology of a Muslim nation, which was the basis for the establishment of Pakistan, was never accepted by non-Muslims. It always stuck in their throats and they could not digest it. If you were to go through Western literature on the Indo-Pak subcontinent, it discusses an undivided India theory and division has been labeled an abnormal process. Films produced in the West about the subcontinent (e.g., the recent British film on Gandhi) have proved Muslim nationality as baseless, with the result that American and Western mentalities and the rest of the world under their influence have no positive impression of the Pakistani nation. On subjects like Indo-Pakistani tension, disturbances, nuclear development, narcotics and democracy, the map of Pakistan surges above the surface and the map of a region comes up before the eyes. But its existence as a nation does not extend beyond the imagination. On seeing a Pakistani citizen, an American will at once put an Indian label on

him, and when the Pakistan corrects him and tells him he is not Indian, he will start grinning. During the past 3 months, whenever New York newspapers published news about Pakistan it was always negative. The Pakistani mission at the United Nations could not succeed in getting even one line of the Pakistani foreign minister's speech during the General Assembly debate on Afghanistan in the newspapers. When the United States signed a treaty with Pakistan, it concluded for its own interests an agreement with the region. The image of the Pakistani nation did not catch its attention. This has seriously damaged Pakistan, because the country is made up of the nation and no country can last without the nation. Guarantee and assurance are given to the nation and not to the place of its residence. It is the nation that provides the security of the country. The United States is the protector of European countries because it has good relations with European nations. The United States will not allow the English to be wiped out and that is why it will stake its all to save England just as it did during the last world war. And only recently in the Argentine-British war over the Falklands, the United States abandoned the "mizo doctrine" to side with Britain. As against this, despite being an ally the United States was not grieved over the disintegration of Pakistan because it did not recognize the existence of the Pakistani nation. On the other hand, it was in the forefront of the nations recognizing Bangladesh immediately. But it is useless to blame the United States. As it is said in the following verse:

"Their carelessness, too, was responsible for the destruction,
It was also my desire to live a humble life."

We were indifferent in maintaining our nationality right from the beginning, although it was the deep sense of Muslim nationality that helped us achieve our self-determination and establish Pakistan. The geographical situation of Pakistan could be none other than the places where Muslims have been living. No historical boundaries have been delineated so far. The presence of Muslims made East Bengal, West Punjab, the North West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan a part of Pakistan. The country owes its existence to the nation. East Bengal separated from Pakistan because it abandoned Muslim nationality and accepted Bangali nationality in its place. Pakistan's protection can be achieved by the establishment of its nationality. But after the Pakistani movement achieved success, we abandoned our Muslim nationality.

Having long since abandoned Islam, I sat down in a temple
and put a mark on my forehead.

Muslim nationality has been replaced by provincialism.

9315

CSO: 4656/81

FURTHER DELAY IN RESTORING DEMOCRACY SEEN AS DANGEROUS RISK

Karachi JANG In Urdu 26 Feb 83 p 3

[Editorial: "The Restoration of Democracy--Any Further Delay Will Be Dangerous"]

[Text] Mr S. M. Zafar, secretary general of the defunct Muslim League (Pagara group), held a discussion with press representatives in Islambabad and said, "The most important problem facing the country is the transfer of power; the sooner this matter is settled, the better it will be for the interests of the country and the people." He said, "Our party does not believe in a policy of agitation. But if the government fails to recognize the seriousness of the situation, the people ultimately will be forced to mobilize." Mr S. M. Zafar is a moderate and law-abiding politician. His party's record during the past 6 years shows that even though it is not among the government's supporters, it is not an opponent either. When the leader of such a party expresses the view: "The people have started their struggle; and if the government does not take measures quickly to improve the deteriorating situation, a people's movement will start again," there is not much cause left to disagree with him. The individuals running the country are lucky in this respect that over 5 1/2 years, though located in the middle of a region beset with severe crises, Pakistan has generally remained a stable and peaceful country. A few ordinary incidents did occur, but they lacked the intensity connected with the deteriorating and disorderly situation around us. This prolonged period of peace and order is extraordinary in a country that in 1977 was torn by upheavals and disorder and was being severely threatened by civil war. One would have to acknowledge in this connection the administrative abilities of President Zia and his colleagues. During this period, not only were the aftereffects of the previous mismanagement and disorder ended and normalcy restored, but dedication to Pakistan's basic ideology was renewed and appreciable steps were taken toward the establishment of an Islamic system.

These accomplishments of the present government deserve praise; but with this acknowledgment one would have to accept the fact as well that no positive advance has been made toward the restoration of a constitutional and democratic system and the participation of the people in the affairs of the country. Basic rights are still suspended; numerous restrictions

are placed on freedom of speech and writing; freedom of association does not exist; political activity is banned and there is no avenue left for the people to assert their views on national affairs. In the beginning, President Zia kept in constant touch with national leaders representing public opinion. Even this has ended in the past 2 years. Far from becoming a substitute for an elected parliament, the Advisory Council has not been able to establish even a weak contact between those in power and the people. Those political ministers who severed connection with the national coalition and joined the government did better. In view of the Advisory Council's performance so far, there is some justification for the ministers' claim that when they joined the government, they proclaimed the holding of general elections.

The real situation is that no organizational link any longer exists between the government and the people. All those avenues are lacking through which the people can fulfill their desires and goals. Political activity, which in modern societies constitutes the mainstream of human activity, has been banned for a long time. Innumerable problems, which would have cropped up and been automatically solved in the normal course of events, have remained unresolved for a long time. Such a deadlock and stagnation may not prove very harmful in the short run, but if prolonged, it will give rise to uncertainty and suspicion and create secondary problems that appear only when the natural functions of society are impeded. We think that we have reached the limit of this standstill, beyond which there is danger. We do not agree with those statesmen who believe that the situation is hopeless and that time and opportunity are already lost. We still think that all will be well if measures are taken without delay to restore democracy. The government must also have become aware of the situation, as is shown by a news agency's conjecture that President Zia will soon allow political activity to a limited extent. There is further speculation to the effect that the restoration of democracy will be unequivocally announced in March. We hope to God that this speculation is correct. Over the past few weeks, protest under various slogans and demands have been increasing in the country. Students, teachers, lawyers, film industry people and women have been demonstrating for their demands. The police have had to resort to a show of force on several occasions to maintain law and order. Now the politicians are saying that they will disobey regulations regarding travel outside a province. By analyzing all these incidents, one can readily see that feelings of restlessness and anxiety are shared by all classes and all levels of society. These feelings may vary in intensity, but there is no doubt that they exist. This situation results from the ban on political activity; as the saying goes: When the stream can find no outlet, it overflows its banks. The sooner the problem is understood and steps taken to resolve it, the better it will be. S. M. Zafar is justified when he says: "The inability of the government to realize the seriousness of the situation will ultimately force the people to mobilize." The country cannot bear the consequences of such a confrontation. We pray that before such a situation arises, we will be able to find solutions to our problems.

ADHERENCE TO 1973 CONSTITUTION SUGGESTED BY FORMER JUDGE

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 14 Feb 83 pp 27-29

[Article by Sheikh Shaukat Ali: "The Importance of the 1973 Constitution"]

[Text] Gen Mohammad Zia has announced that plans for a new governmental structure will be shared with the country shortly. The patriotic segment of the country is once again greatly worried as the president had declared during his U.S. and Canadian visit that "the Islamic concept of democracy is very similar to the present system of government in America and Canada." In other words, he believes that the Western or American democratic system follows Islamic tradition.

We do not have to discuss whether this point of view deserves further thought. One point is clear: If the Western democratic system is similar to Islamic principles and if the president wants to enforce it in Pakistan, then why has no action been taken for the last 5 and 1/2 years? Why was it necessary to resume this debate about the system of government?

Establishment of Government

At first glance, this debate over the type of government appears to be academic, but given a little thought, it leads one to in-depth discussions. A government of this type is always tied to a constitution and we have a painful history of enacting and dismissing constitutions.

Following the establishment of Pakistan, the government was run according to the 1953 constitution. The 1956 constitution was enacted, only to be broken by Ayub Khan. In 1962, another constitution was enacted.

After Ayub, Yahya Khan also tried to enact a new constitution. The 1962 constitution was dismissed and the 1973 confederate constitution was born. This constitution was signed by representatives of the four states. Should there be efforts to establish a new government, clause 51-58 of the 1973 constitution would have to be repealed. If presidential rule is desired, this constitution will be more effective after some amendments. If the chief of the armed forces and the prime minister are civilians, then this constitution would have to be changed from its original form.

People who are satisfied with the present government and those who view the 1973 constitution with satisfaction will become concerned if the debate over established clauses is reopened. Such a step would only open a can of worms. The political leaders in the border provinces, such as Sind and Baluchistan, will become uneasy, since they have been complaining about the deprivation of their rights and not having effective representation within the central government. If a government system other than a parliamentary system such as the Islamic government system promised by the president is proposed, the old bone of contention between Punjab and the smaller states will come to the surface--just like the 1973 debacle over the constitution.

Importance of the 1973 Constitution

The constitution of 1973 is important not just because the representatives of the four states signed it or because all of the political parties are demanding elections, but because this constitution reflects the wished of the people in the four states. Popular elections, the granting of rights to states and adherence to Islamic principles are important aspects of the 1973 constitution. In my opinion, no constitution can be written or implemented that could be as pro-Islamic as this one. A closer look indicates that clauses number 2, 8, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 25, 31, 35, and 40 of this constitution is based on the Koran.

Now the question arises, if we have the 1973 constitution, which is based on the Koran, why are we thinking about another constitution or even of amending this one? We cannot have anything better than this. To me, tampering with this constitution is equivalent to resurrecting the 36-year-old fiasco when Pakistan was first established. At present, while Baluchistan and other border provinces are not satisfied with the independence provided by this constitution, how can we expect them to be happy with dismissal of some of the clauses within it or with a new constitution? In the border provinces, the elected leadership considers parliamentary procedure in government as ideal. Leaders in Baluchistan still feel the loss of states rights. They believe that all affairs except for communications, currency, defense and foreign policy should be handled at state level. This opinion has been expressed time and again by such leaders as Ghos Baksh Bazanju, Nawab Akbar Bagti and others. The leaders in the border states are dissatisfied with the rights given to the states.

The leaders in Sind are also unhappy. This leaves Punjab alone where no demands for states rights are made. Under such circumstances, would it be wise to enforce the 1973 constitution? Not at all. It would only cause a lot of hue and cry, which would be widespread. It would not be possible to bring about the social revolution with consistency. Some persons would label my fears as baseless, but no problem is solved by looking at its surface alone. One must have in-depth information to estimate the seriousness of the problem.

Philosophical viewpoints cannot remedy the damage done by volcanic eruptions. The lack of precautionary measures allows such eruptions to do more damage

than if terrain below the surface of the volcano is studied and the location of the lava were determined. Unfortunately, Pakistan lacks such a style of thinking. Our leaders let the grass grow under their feet. Could we have ever imagined losing East Pakistan? No, never, It is a reality now, however, that East Pakistan has a separate identity. We have several different accounts of causes for its separation but all agree that it was a disturbing affair. It did not happen overnight. The events that led to its secession go way back. It is said that an accumulation of drops makes a river. Not all actions that result in quick reactions are good. Actions with good quick results are not always considered good in the long run. It is a proven fact that good actions are those that result in long-term beneficial effects. Thus, when Yusuf Haroon asks about the whereabouts of the 1973 constitution, it is an indication of the coming crisis that our country is unable to face. If one faction in the country claims that the 1973 constitution is not acceptable, this is not the view of the whole nation. It is necessary that the politicians and government take steps to control the situation. It would be interesting to find out what kind of steps they will take. Should the constitution be changed and presidential rule be established or should there be a government based on the council [shoora] system? Or should the electoral system be changed and a compromise reached keeping the 1973 constitution in effect?

I think that the present situation is very complicated, but it is not beyond solution. I believe that the strong constitutional tie that binds the states should not be loosened.

Pakistan's Problem

One of Pakistan's problems is that each of its leaders, on assuming power declared themselves as supporters of states. Each of these leaders tried to impress on people that his methods and policies were the best. In time, it was discovered that in each case these promises were used to stay in power by those leaders. One reason for these false promises is that all of our leaders are surrounded by power-hungry people. These "intellectuals" are expert in trading on some patented formulas for pleasing their bosses. They do not let the leaders learn about the problems or see the patriotic people. The influence of such people on leaders results in crises for the country later. To prove their loyalty, these "close friends" of leaders hinder progress. They are against any kind of action and try to give a positive picture of their defective policies. These people do not last long because they travel in the wrong direction and end up as turncoats. It is sad to see the desires of the people in the four states being neglected so blatantly. None of the leaders tried to discern the truth and instead was satisfied with superficial issues. Such actions should be unacceptable in any intellectual society.

At present, all intellectuals, lawyers, political parties, and even members of the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] in Pakistan are in favor of enforcing the present constitution without any amendments and excluding the changes brought about in it during the Bhutto era. Later, the Supreme Court had not

allowed the government to amend the constitution in connection with the Begum Nasrat Bhutto case. The court had advised the government to hold elections in the near future. During his trip to the United States, General Zia had mentioned in his speeches that the Supreme Court had declared his government legal.

The Supreme Court had not allowed the present government to stay in power permanently, but had simply given it the role of a referee. I believe that the decision of the Supreme Court should be followed because only by giving power to popularly elected officials and not tampering with the 1973 constitution can we save Pakistan from an impending crisis. General Zia has said here and abroad that there is complete peace in Pakistan. What stops us from having popular elections if this is the case?

Here it should be pointed out that it is in our best interests to follow the direction that Quade-E Azam wanted to take. Obviously, he did not want to take Pakistan toward "mula Azam."

Encouragement of Positive Efforts

It should be added here that a country's stability and unity depends on its adherence to democratic principles. I would even say that the government should accept the demands for state rights raised by various federated units. Why don't we take action to eradicate hatred between the states and make Pakistan a strong united country?

The absence of a revolution does not mean the government in the four states is successful or that people support their leaders' policies. The lack of a united opposition does mean that the leadership is successful. At present, the Afghanistan crisis, Sind's demand for autonomy, talks concerning Pakhtoonistan, slogans such as "free Baluchistan," tirades against Bhutto and the political, social and economic atmosphere are not conducive to emergence of a great revolution. These circumstances do not support the thesis that the present government is strong or without internal strife.

The idea that people should uproot a government by rising against it is not very constructive. What kind of historic, religious or developmental cause would be served by forcing the people to such extremes? Is it not possible to have a peaceful transfer of governments in Pakistan and voluntary withdrawal of unsuccessful leadership in favor of a democratic rule fostering progress? They should not wait for fires to start in villages and cities.

Why is it so hard for all leaders to make changes in government sought by the opposition, to encourage legitimate demands and to initiate productive and peaceful traditions? Is it necessary to shed blood in the streets and destroy government property worth millions, uproot happy families, fill up jails, beat up our mothers, sisters and daughters and fill the air with screams from jails in order to get a better government? In my opinion, the general should break this old tradition and establish an example of the peaceful transfer of government.

If he steps aside by giving power to officials elected according to the constitution of 1973, General Zia will be paving the way for a healthy change toward progress.

BENAZIR BHUTTO TESTIFIES, URGES EARLY TRANSFER OF POWER

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

Miss Benazir Bhutto has said that early transfer of power to the elected representatives was a "must" for the stability of the Federation of Pakistan and for "assuaging the feelings of injustice and deprivation" among the federating units.

The struggle for the restoration of 1973 Constitution, as distinguished from the present unitary set-up, could not, therefore, be labelled as "creating hatred" amongst various provinces, she contended.

Miss Benazir, a detainee lodged in 70, Clifton sub-jail (her Karachi residence), was giving evidence before a Special Military Court yesterday as a defence witness in the case against Jam Saqi and others.

Her testimony, which had remained inconclusive on March 26 last, was completed yesterday within a duration totalling 14 hours.

Jam Saqi and others are being tried for publishing and distributing "objectionable literature" and for "spreading disaffection towards the Armed Forces and propagating against the ideology of Pakistan".

Miss Benazir stressed that mechanism to be devised for the purpose of general elections should strictly conform to the provisions of

the 1973 Constitution. The reported plan for indirect elections based on the registration of political parties, proportional representation, electoral colleges and the selection of candidates was, in her view, a negation of democratic process as laid down in the 1973 Constitution and was meant merely to "put a civilian stamp" on the present regime.

Holding the Provisional Constitution Order (PCO) as ultra vires on the basis of 1973 Constitution which is held in abeyance, Miss Bhutto argued that the PCO be scrapped as it denied the superior courts their constitutional right to protect the fundamental rights of the people.

To her, Martial Law and the Armed Forces were a "contradiction in terms", because, as she put it, the Armed Forces were an institution responsible for the preservation of a country's territorial integrity and for coming to the aid of a civilian government, and Martial Law was a system "designed to protect an autocratic rule".

Vibrant force

Miss Benazir said that if a Federation were to remain a "vibrant and vital force", the provinces forming part of that Federation

had to have a sense of full and active participation in the State affairs and that the relationship of the two should be based on "consensus, equity and justice".

She cautioned that the longer the 1973 Constitution remained "ineffectual and in abeyance", the more intense would be the "resentment" among the people.

According to her, Jam Saqi had not violated the law of the land as he did not seek to change the territorial boundary of the State or "disabuse" the State religion, but on the other hand "struggled for the supremacy of law and obedience to the Constitution."

Miss Benazir was of the view that while Pakistan was a poor country and its people were among the poorest, "the rich Pakistanis are among the richest in the world".

Judged from this standpoint, one who struggled against the exploiters and for the exploited could not be labelled as a traitor nor was he said to be "creating class hatred", she deposed.

Miss Benazir said she stood for a political solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

She urged "all-out support" to the Palestinian cause, saying "I salute Yasser Arafat, and the Palestinian Mujahideen and I pray for the martyrs — men, women and children — of Palestine".

MAJOR POINTS OF BENAZIR BHUTTO'S TESTIMONY REPORTED

LD060717 Kabul Bakhtar in English 0420 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Kabul, 5 Apr (BAKHITAR)--Miss Benazir Bhutto, a leader of Pakistan People's Party and daughter of the assassinated prime minister of Pakistan, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, has said that the so-called Afghanistan problem can be solved politically and that every Afghan emigre in Pakistan wanted to go back to his homeland.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, who has been under detention for the past two years, told a so-called Special Military Court in Karachi on 31 March that what is needed in Pakistan today is that power be immediately transferred to the elected representatives of the people. But, she added, the repeated postponement of promised general elections by the military regime of Ziaul Haq and imposition of various restrictions on political parties has made it clear that the present Pakistani regime was not sincere in transferring political power to the people.

Miss Benazir, who was completing her statement before military court as the defence witness of Jam Saqi and six other communists, said that the present regime is not legal and has no constitutional sanction. She reminded that the generals themselves had taken an oath on 28 April 1977 for remaining loyal to the constitution of 1973, yet they have broken their own pledge.

She added that martial law was being used as a punitive machinery against the people.

She also recalled that the attorney general of the regime Shariffudin Pirzada had pledged before the supreme court of Pakistan that the martial law regime would stay in power only for nine months and that the orders passed under martial law could be challenged in civil courts. Yet in practice, Ziaul Haq declared himself president and has been illegally occupying the power since then.

Miss Benazir said that under the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan the sovereignty belonged to the people and their elected representatives were the trustees of this sovereignty. But the chief of army staff, by usurping power at midnight on 5 July 1977, overthrew an elected government which was the trustee of people's rule.

Answering a question, she said that martial law was a system which led the country to destruction. She said that the provisional constitution imposed by the regime is absolutely illegal and in violation of the Constitution of 1973. She said the Constitution of 1973 guaranteed basic human rights while the provisional constitution of the regime denied these rights.

Miss Benazir said that although Pakistan was a signatory to the United Nations Charter, the present government was ignoring its provisions.

She said the policies of the Zia regime were unclear. Sometimes the regime said Pakistan was a "buffer state" and sometimes denied it.

Miss Benazir said that in order to ease the present unrest in the country it was necessary that all political prisoners be released, all political cases transferred to civil courts, judiciary's powers be restored and a firm deadline should be fixed for free general elections.

Miss Benazir said that the Communist Party of Pakistan was free to conduct its activity under the Constitution of 1973 and the Constitution did not impose any ban on the party.

The lawyers of Jam Saqi and his six other comrades who are languishing in jails for the past over two years and have been accused of conducting anti-imperialist and democratic propaganda and for political activity against military rule have asked the military court to summon General Ziaul Haq to appear as a witness before the court. The lawyers in their petition have said that General Zia, by issuing some statements recently, had tried to influence the proceedings in the court. The lawyers have also summoned Sharifuddin Pirzada, the attorney general of Pakistan, and A. K. Brohi, law minister, to appear on behalf of the regime and explain General Zia's statements.

CSO: 4600/503

NUSRAT BHUTTO'S VISIT TO LONDON CONFIRMED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 14

[Article by Yehia Syed]

[Text]

LONDON, March 29: According to the latest reports Begum Nusrat Bhutto did arrive here on March 18 from Geneva. She returned to Paris four days later.

Khanum Hariri who returned from Paris last night told me: "Begum Bhutto is still in Paris and resting under doctor's orders as she is not too well. She has stopped seeing anyone or receiving calls because she has been advised complete rest. After all she has already given time to her party members when she had first arrived both in Paris and Munich. She is not suffering from a common cold. She is ill and needs complete rest and peace of mind. People should understand that," Khanum Hariri said.

When I told her that the Home Office insists that Begum Bhutto arrived here on March 18 last, Khanum Hariri said: 'The Home Of-

fice is mixing names and persons.

Mariam Bhutto, Mumtaz Bhutto's wife, did come from Geneva on March 18 to London and the immigration officer might have mixed their initials 'M' for 'N'. After all if Nusrat really was in London or is in London, the British national newspapers and the BBC would have been the first to publish the news as Nusrat, in her own right, is a politician and her arrival in London is a news. Why should Nusrat lie low or hide her presence in London if she really was or still is, in London?' Khanum Hariri asked.

But when I asked again, the second time within 20 minutes, the Home Office, it insisted "The widow of Bhutto, Begum Bhutto from Geneva was admitted on March 18 for two or three weeks as a visitor". He refused to say anything else.

NDP LEADER TALKS ON PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, President of the defunct National Democratic Party (NDP), yesterday ruled out any dialogue with the Government, except on the point of modalities of general elections on the basis of the 1973 Constitution.

Talking informally to newsmen at his Defence Society residence he explained that a "positive, independent and non-aligned" foreign policy as well as the provincial autonomy with "greater participation of the smaller provinces in the decision-making" constituted important planks of the defunct NDP's political philosophy.

He regretted that hardly any mention was being made by the component parties about the "fourth and vital point" in the MRD Declaration, i.e. "guarantees to preserve and protect the genuine interests of the four federating units in Pakistan".

Mr. Mazari said he wished to make it clear that if this point (about provincial autonomy) had not been agreed upon and if the call for restoring the 1973 Constitution which was passed unanimously and which excluded the unilateral amendments brought about later had not been made, the defunct

NDP would not have signed the MRD Declaration.

It was the cardinal principle of the defunct NDP that barring defence, foreign affairs, currency and communications, all subjects which fall under the Concurrent List or which are of common interests such as the provincial resources and their utilisation etc. should be given over to the provinces, he emphasised.

In another context he refuted the suggestion in certain Press reports that the MRD Secretary-General had been assigned the "right" to act on behalf of the MRD in future negotiations with the Government or other political parties after consulting the MRD's component parties.

According to him, the MRD Secretary-General had been appointed for a period of one year and that his position was confined to co-ordinating the work of the various component parties of the MRD.

He also brushed aside all talk about naming Khan Abdul Wali Khan as the Chairman of the MRD, saying that his candidature had not been put up "formally" at any of the MRD meetings.

Mr. Mazari seemed to be awry ab

four certain elements within MRD making the defunct NDP a "target of their attack" and said categorically that the tendency "to air internal differences in public or to assume threatening posture" should stop.

"No, never", he answered when a correspondent said he wondered whether what Mr. Mazari was saying was a prelude to the defunct NDP defecting from the MRD.

Mr. Abid Zuberi, the Party's Central Information Secretary, intervened to complain that in the NWFP and Baluchistan where the MRD Central Action Committee had deputed the defunct NDP to take charge of the organisational work, workers of other component parties were not extending to it the cooperation they ought to.

On the other hand, workers of the defunct NDP were "actively cooperating" with the assigned parties in the Punjab and Sind in the MRD's organisational drive, he said.

Without naming a component party, he said, it talked of defying

the Government's prohibitive restrictive orders, but while it did only once with its leader coming down to Lahore, the leaders of the defunct NDP had defied restrictions on their movement "a dozen times".

Mr. Mazari disclosed that he, as the Chairman of the MRD's Action Sub-committee, had submitted a 32-point draft "programme of action" but more than a month had elapsed and it had not been endorsed by the parent body. This is because a certain component party had not yet called its working committee meeting for whose endorsement it had asked for time.

In answer to a question he said his party was opposed to holding elections on the basis of proportional representation and the separate electorate.

He explained that there was no provision to this effect in the 1973 Constitution and said that if this proposal were to be accepted then what was there not to accept the Government's suggestion about the Army's future role.

CALL TO RESTORE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

Mr. Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin Ebrahim has asked the young lawyers to discharge their professional duties without fear or favour, says a press release.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the Lawyers Academic and Social Union on Thursday night he advised them to learn from the mistakes of their elders and, instead, unite to restore the "honour, prestige and independence of the judiciary".

Mr. Fakhruddin maintained that the PCO (Provisional Constitution Order) was the "sole impediment in the way of the supremacy of law." Unless it was rescinded, the lawyers's struggle waged against the amended Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Act, the Qazi Courts and the Law of Evidence would be of little avail".

Earlier, Mr. Sabihuddin Babar, Joint Secretary, Sind High Court Bar Association, commended the young lawyers on their role in moulding the community life on legalistic and democratic pattern.

Mr. Zia Awan, Organising Secretary of the Lawyers Academic and Social Union, explained the aims and objectives of the Union and announced the formation of a 10-member Organising Committee.

PAGARA CALLS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

TANDO ADAM, March 26: Pir Sahib Pagara, chief of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League said here on Friday sooner the General Elections are held, the better would be for the country.

Talking informally with people during his tour of Sanghar district at Tando Adam Rest House, the Pir Sahib said that dangers faced by the country could not be averted without restoration of the democratic process and participation of people.

In the same context the Pir Sahib said democracy is a universally recognised form of Government and therefore is as vital for Pakistan as for any other country of the world.

The Pir Sahib was of the definite view that as and when elections are held, his party will come out it as victorious.

However, he said, he was not optimistic that General Elections are foreseeable in the near future, adding that people should only humbly pray for it. He said some sort of

elections may be held in a year or so, but these would not be the same, the people were looking for anxiously.

In reply to another question Pir Pagara said that he has launched meet-the-people campaign and that is why he is in Tando Adam.

He demanded the release of all political leaders including Benazir Bhutto, Air Marshal (Retd) Asgher Khan, and lawyers and students.

In reply to a question the Pir Sahib said the MRD has not so far achieved any of its goals but infact activities of this organisation were only confined to drawing rooms for the reasons best known to the partners of this multi-party organisation.

Regarding Afghan refugees problems, he said he was in full agreement with the Pakistan Government view that the issue must be resolved politically rather than militarily, enabling its millions of refugees in Pakistan to return there homeland safely and quickly.

CSO: 4600/497

MRD CALLS FOR SECTARIAN PEACE

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 83 p 5

[Text]

HYDERABAD, March 26. An MRD meeting held here on the Pakistan Day at the residence of Mr Usman Kenedy, a leader of the defunct PPP, expressed deep concern over sectarian clashes in Karachi and appealed to people to show tolerance, respect each other and forge a united front to frustrate the designs of subversive elements.

Mr Farooqul Hasan Jeelani, a leader of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal and MRD convener for the current month who presided over the meeting, said that unity was the need of the hour to overcome the problems faced by the country.

MRD leader Shakeel Ahmad Pathan of Quami Mahaz Azadi appealed to people to maintain sectarian peace and harmony.

Mr Usman Kenedy said the MRD would peacefully continue to struggle for the restoration of democracy in the country, and asked people to make united efforts for the greater glory and progress of Pakistan.

He demanded the restoration of 1973 Constitution, holding of the general election, lifting of Press censorship and release of all political detenus, including Miss Benazir Bhutto, Air Marshal (retd) Asghar Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Mr Rasool Bux Palejo.

Others who attended and addressed the meeting included Mr Abdul Rehman Sheikh (PDP), Mr Abdul Khaliq G. Khan (T.I.), Mr Manzoor Sheikh (Awami Tehrik), Mr Aftab Raza Mughal (SPSF), Mr Naimul Ghani (NSF) and Mr Aziz Memon (Sindh Shagird Tehrik).

ISLAMABAD TALKS SAID TO BOOST PAKISTAN-USSR RELATIONS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

MOSCOW, March 30: The recent Soviet-Pakistani talks in Islamabad on developing economic ties between the two nations "marked one more step in the development of Soviet-Pakistan economic cooperation", said an article circulated by APN.

The two sides, it said, decided to speed up the construction of the Karachi Iron and Steel Plant which is being built with Soviet technical assistance also to assist Pakistan in the training of heavy industry personnel.

Several industrial projects have been or are being built in Pakistan with Soviet assistance, the biggest one being the Karachi Iron and Steel Plant. This is a very important project, for it will provide Pakistan with steel and cast iron and give work to thousands of Pakistanis, quite recently, a steel converter and rolling mill-800 were put into operation at the plant, when completed, the Karachi plant will become one of the biggest in Asia, he said.

The USSR is helping Pakistan develop communication means and power projects. In particu-

lar, one unit has been made operational at the Gudu thermal power station, the biggest in the country. The USSR is also assisting Pakistan in the training of scientific and technical personnel. More than 5,000 Pakistani workers, engineers, and technicians have undergone a special course at the training centre of the Karachi Iron and Steel Plant alone. Many of them raised their skills in the USSR.

Soviet assistance to Pakistan, just like to all other developing nations, is not accompanied by any political terms which might undermine its sovereignty and independence. It is based on complete equality and mutual advantage.

At a formal gathering in Moscow dedicated to Pakistan day, the Pakistani ambassador to the USSR, Dr Iftikhar Ali, noted the USSR's weighty contribution to his country's economic progress. The USSR, he stressed, proved willing to share its technology and achievements with developing countries and to assist them in their endeavour to attain economic and social prosperity.—FPI.

CSO: 4600/501

INTERVIEW WITH DEFENSE MINISTER MIR ALI AHMAD KHAN TALPUR

Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 10 Feb 83 pp 8-13

[Interview with Minister of Defense Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur: "How Can Those Who Played With Blood and Fire in Liaquat Bagh Presume To Talk of Democracy?"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Federal Minister of Defense Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur belongs to Sind Province's most influential family, Talpur, which never accepted British imperialist domination and whose history is one of constant struggle against it. The Talpurs played a unique role in the struggle to drive the British out of the country and to establish Pakistan. Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur was active in Sind politics even before the creation of Pakistan and was imprisoned by the British several times during the struggles to obtain political and democratic rights for the people of Sind. In 1939 he joined the Khaksar movement and became one of its prominent leaders. After the creation of Pakistan, Talpur gained prominence as a leader, courageous and determined in his stand for people's rights. After Pakistan's creation, Talpur joined the Muslim League and in 1953 ran unopposed on the Muslim League ticket from Hyderabad and was elected to the Sind Legislative Assembly. He was a member of the West Pakistan Assembly until 1958. When Bhutto announced the formation of the People's Party in 1967, Talpur became a member; but neither he nor his brother, the late Rasul Baksh Talpur, accepted "Bhuttoism," and they resigned from the party. He was sent to jail three times for disagreeing with the People's Party chairman and his policies. In 1973, Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur became a regular member of the opposition party. According to political circles, his name led the list of those few politicians whom Bhutto feared. Mr Talpur is a politician who acts on principle, not expedience. Where truth is concerned, he is forthright and outspoken and still maintains his contacts with the people and political affairs. His house and office are always filled with people with problems. He meets with each one and listens to his complaint. Because of Talpur's position as the minister of defense and as a prominent political leader of Sind, HURMAT interviewed him and discussed in detail the country's defense and politics and in particular the present situation in Sind Province.

[Question] The Western press and certain circles within Pakistan convey the impression that Pakistan has agreed to provide facilities when needed to the rapid deployment forces being formed by the United States to counter Russian threats to its interest and the interests of its allies in the Persian Gulf. Could you clarify the matter for us?

[Answer] To my knowledge, this is not true. Pakistan is trying to improve its relations with all countries; and on the regional level, also, Pakistan is playing its part in promoting world peace. In my view, it is not a good move for Pakistan to suddenly attach itself to any camp, and I am not aware of any such intention. We have bought weapons from the United States. If the United States has any plans against Russia, it does not mean that we are involved in any conspiracy with America against Russia. No such issue was discussed in the cabinet. Anyway, I can say with certainty that any such impression is entirely false.

[Question] Three of the F-16 planes that Pakistan bought recently from the United States have arrived here. Will an American team of experts be accompanying these planes? Certain circles are saying that an American team has arrived in Pakistan.

[Answer] Sir, no Americans have come nor will any come to Pakistan. We have a sufficient number of capable people in our Air Force who can not only fly the F-16 planes but also fix any technical problems that may arise. We can even make parts for the F-16 planes here. There is no need to bring in a team of American experts for three or six planes. The problems that Pakistan faces involve the availability of funds. Our technical experts are as skilled as those of any other country. Flying planes is no particular problem; our experts can maintain and repair the planes as well. I assure you, we could make many things here in Pakistan if we had the facilities. We do not need any experts.

[Question] But we hear rumors that a special colony is being prepared for the American experts in Sargodha, from which Pakistanis are banned.

[Answer] No such colony is being prepared. Such things cannot be kept hidden. There is also no such place where Pakistanis are not allowed to enter. Of course, ordinary individuals are not allowed in areas that are considered sensitive, and this applies not only to Sargodha but to all parts of the country. Unauthorized individuals are not allowed access to sensitive areas, and it is a mistake to infer from this that a special area is being prepared for Americans. As you can see, we have installed a steel mill in the country with Russian help and a large number of Russian technicians are there; but this does not mean that we are becoming socialist or communist. In fact, there are groups who spread such rumors.

[Question] Certain circles are of the view that the acquisition of F-16 planes by Pakistan will set off an unending arms race in the subcontinent. Do you agree with this view?

[Answer] I would like to make it clear, first of all, that I am personally opposed to an arms race, and I do not think that there is any justification for starting one. If an arms race has begun, then the other side, India, has started it. I should like to explain here that the arms that Pakistan inherited were either obsolete or not working. India got all the good army posts and weapons factories. There was a large steel mill in Jamshedpur, but there was no steel mill in Pakistan. India was far ahead of us even at the time of partition, and it is still ahead of us. We had to start from scratch. Pakistan is obtaining weapons only for its own defense. I cannot mention a single country of any consequence that does not possess arms, not a single one that does not have weapons. If the great powers are striving to accumulate weapons, then the smaller countries also have a right to obtain weapons to defend themselves. In my view, if because of Pakistan's acquisition of F-16 planes, India should start an arms race and spend its economic resources that should be utilized for the welfare of the people on buying weapons, it would be not only unsuitable but sad. India should set an example for Pakistan. The Indian leadership, especially Indira Gandhi, is sensible and far-sighted. I do not think that it will start an arms race in the region because India does not need to do so.

[Question] It is being said in India that the acquisition of F-16 planes by Pakistan has upset the balance of power in the subcontinent.

[Answer] If the acquisition of six planes by Pakistan can upset the balance of power, then one should ask what the Indian leaders have been doing. This is just gossip; the balance of power cannot be upset by the acquisition of a few planes. India already possesses many planes that resemble the F-16's.

[Question] Some time back, it was reported that Indian forces were being assembled on Pakistan's borders and that shots were exchanged between Pakistani and Indian border troops. Is there any danger to Pakistan from its eastern or northern borders?

[Answer] I do not believe so. Incidents are always occurring on the border but these do not create the danger of an outbreak of war. Pakistan is not facing any danger on its northern border. Pakistan is making every effort to improve its relations as far as possible with its neighbors.

[Question] But Mrs Gandhi says that India is endangered by Pakistan.

[Answer] Mrs Gandhi is a capable and clever leader; she knows that India is not in the slightest danger from Pakistan, nor does Pakistan have any aggressive intentions toward India.

[Question] Afghan gunship helicopters have entered and violated Pakistani air space several times. Why does Pakistan not take action? Are we afraid?

[Answer] We are not afraid, but we do not want to cause a deterioration in the situation. Our soldiers and generals are not afraid, but we use caution. If someone provokes us, we should be patient and prudent. We

should follow this cautious course of action as long as we are not subjected to open aggression. We are a nation of 80 million people, and it is beneath our dignity to take umbrage at every small incident.

[Question] Pakistan has offered to sign a nonaggression treaty with India. The proposal carries certain psychological effects associated with it; in other words, it causes the Pakistanis to stop thinking of war. Will our enemies not take advantage of this psychological atmosphere to attack us?

[Answer] When we say that we want to live in peace and do not want to fight, it does not mean that we are doing away with our defensive preparedness and the military capability of our troops. It is the army's mission to be prepared and ready at all times, and our armies are very organized and prepared. We do not allow our defenders to go to sleep, but we do not wish to create a war hysteria. If anyone should attack us and launch an aggression against us, our nation will be ready to fight on very short notice; it is not necessary to keep our people in a perpetual state of war hysteria. In the past, other nations have prepared themselves for war on very short notice. If the Pakistanis are attacked, they are capable of preparing to defend themselves in a very short period of time.

[Question] Saudi Arabia recently signed an agreement with Bangladesh about utilizing the services of its troops. It is rumored that there are Pakistani troops in several Arab countries. Could you clarify the matter?

[Answer] We have military advisors in many Arab countries, and Pakistani army engineers are serving in these countries. But they are helping our brother Islamic countries to carry out their development projects. As far as defense is concerned, the Arabs take care of their own defense. When the apostates seized the Kaaba, the Arab army took care of the operation.

There should be no misunderstanding about the ability of the Arabs to defend themselves. They are quite capable of doing so and do not consider themselves inferior to anybody. The Arabs are a brave and honorable people and they are acquainted with modern warfare. They also have a trained army. As far as utilizing Bangladesh troops is concerned, they were trained by us, and they are capable of training Arab soldiers and fulfilling the tasks required of military advisors. We have military advisors in Libya and several other developing countries.

[Question] The impression is that if the Gulf countries and Arab countries are attacked, Pakistan will send its troops to defend them.

[Answer] If a great power should launch an attack, what will we be able to do? We are members of the Islamic Conference and of the Nonaligned Movement. We cannot interfere directly. We did not interfere in the war between Iran and Iraq, which has been going on for a long time. We have, however, tried our best to bring about an end to the war.

[Question] Some time ago, proposals were made to the effect that Pakistan and Arab countries should cooperate in establishing defense industries, with Pakistan supplying the technical expertise and manpower and the Arab countries providing the economic facilities.

[Answer] These proposals were made by the Arab countries and they are being studied. We are cooperating; and a great amount of defensive material that we manufacture is bought by them. Defense industries have not been established on a large scale, but they should be started; but before doing so, we should pay attention to heavy industries. A country that can manufacture heavy industry can also manufacture defense material. A factory that makes tractors can also make tanks.

[Question] Have the Arab countries made any concrete proposals in regard to the establishment of defense industries on a cooperative basis?

[Answer] Proposals were made to that effect, and the matter is being studied.

[Question] Is there any possibility that any kind of industry will be started in the near future?

[Answer] Better results can be obtained when those involved feel the need for doing so.

[Question] When our neighbor, India, buys planes, tanks or other Western equipment from another country, it does so on the condition that it has the license to assemble the equipment in India. Why do we not follow the same procedure?

[Answer] We should not forget, first of all, that at the time of partition, India received several heavy complexes such as the Jamshedpur complex; thus, India had the know-how for arms manufacture from the very beginning. Moreover, India buys weapons on a large scale whereas we have not bought arms in such large quantities. Still, we are trying to become self-sufficient in our defense needs. We have a factory in Kamara where ships are not only repaired but in some ways entire ships are built as well. We need to establish heavy industries that can also be used to meet defense needs. As far as obtaining licenses is concerned, very few countries have obtained license for building weapons. Russia did not obtain license from anyone to build weapons, nor did China.

[Question] Pakistan has repeatedly reassured the United States and other countries that it is not building an atomic bomb. Why do these countries continue to express doubts and suspicions?

[Answer] It is America's misfortune that it does not trust its friends, and it has suffered because of this attitude. We do not want to manufacture an atomic bomb, nor do we want to drop an atomic bomb on India or Israel. As for the question of atomic energy, every country in the world has the right to obtain energy for the welfare and progress of its people, and Pakistan also has the right to obtain atomic energy. I cannot understand why some countries continue to object to our atomic program. South Africa has the technology and is utilizing atomic energy. Several other countries also have atomic technology. If all these countries are benefiting from atomic energy, why should Pakistan not do the same? Pakistan will certainly

obtain atomic energy and will become self-sufficient in this field. We do not want to set off an explosion, and any such accusations against us are utterly without foundation. As far as atomic energy is concerned, it is an open secret that any country can obtain atomic energy if it has the wherewithal to do so.

The atomic secret is no longer a secret. Pakistan is facing an energy crisis and has no other recourse but to utilize atomic energy.

[Question] Certain countries and also certain individuals within Pakistan such as Wali Khan are saying that Pakistan is supplying arms to the Afghan Mujahidin. Could you tell us something about this?

[Answer] Pakistan is not giving arms to the Mujahidin. Wali Khan knows that since the time of the British, arms have been manufactured in the area where he lives and where hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees have taken shelter. The Pathans themselves make these weapons, and now modern weapons are also being manufactured. The Government of Pakistan does not hand arms to the Mujahidin and tell them to go and fight the Russians. Any such impression is wrong. The Mujahidin are waging a guerrilla war in Afghanistan, and they obtain their weapons by taking them away from Afghan and Russian soldiers. We do not give them any arms.

[Question] Are not the areas where weapons are made under Pakistani administration?

[Answer] A political administration has been in effect in these areas for some time, and Pakistan does not have the kind of control there that it has in other areas.

[Question] May we talk now about domestic policies?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] Some of our political leaders, especially those from Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Province, complain that Pakistani provinces do not enjoy autonomy. In a recent interview, Akbar Bagti demanded provincial autonomy for Baluchistan; Wali Khan also keeps talking of provincial autonomy. What is the real situation in your opinion?

[Answer] It is a historical fact that differences have always existed between the central government and the provinces. I would like you to note the federal government in the world in which no differences at all exist between the central government and the provinces. Regarding the issue of the provinces' demand for autonomy, I think that the Government of Pakistan should study the demands of the provinces and accept those that are legitimate. But I would like to clarify here that you cannot divide the people of the entire country into units. The people of Pakistan struggled hard to have their own country. Pakistan's creation was not a mere accident; the fact is that the Muslims of the subcontinent

wanted a separate Islamic state. The Muslim inhabitants of Sind, Baluchistan, the North West Frontier Province and Punjab wanted the creation of Pakistan. If someone now wants the Islamic identity of this country to be ended and that an Islamic government no longer remain in existence, then such a person is badly mistaken. As far as complaints are concerned, the government should alleviate the complaints of the provinces.

[Question] Some circles say that Baluchistan and Sind also have separatist tendencies.

[Answer] I would say again that anyone who thinks so is badly mistaken, and any interpretation to that effect would be wrong. The fact is that all over the world a certain atmosphere of tension exists between the federal government and its units. In Britain, relations between the central government and Ireland and Scotland are not good. In the Soviet Union as well relations become strained between the central government and the provinces. In the United States, a tug of war and differences over administrative matters continue between the federal and the state governments. It is incomprehensible to me how anyone can draw the conclusion from something such as this that the people of Baluchistan, the North West Frontier Province or Sind want to break away.

[Question] In my view, it is necessary at present to create a just [words illegible] society. Every government tries in its way to create a better society, and this government is also striving for the same goal. If the people can obtain justice as soon as possible, if their economic destitution is ended, if law and order are improved, then the situation will improve. The present government is trying to improve the lot of the people to the best of its ability. Ours is not a conquered country, nor has the government conquered it. Pakistan belongs to the people and the present government will not remain in office for ever; the government has no such misconceptions. Hence, the government regards itself as the servant of the people. Political differences can exist within the nation. There may be differences over the running of the political administration. Political parties should present their programs for improving the form of government and raising the people's standard of living. None of the political parties has as yet presented its program.

[Question] But at the present time, no political activity is allowed nor are there any political parties; how can they present their programs to the people?

[Answer] That is all mere talk. People can create their own political activity. There are no obstacles to presenting a program to the people. But if a party's aim is to spread dissension among the people, then obviously it cannot be allowed to do so.

[Question] Some commentators are of the view that political unrest is continually increasing in the country and that the increase in crime is the expression of this unrest.

[Answer] Crimes are committed all the time, even when a political administration is in power, perhaps then on a greater scale. It is not true that crime is the result of political restrictions.

[Question] Since you come from Sind, let us talk about that province. The incidence of crime there is the highest, and according to certain circles, the reason is the existence of political unrest and deprivation.

[Answer] Thefts and burglaries occur all over the country; serious crimes are committed in Punjab. Numerous individuals from Punjab have come to me to seek redress. Thefts have always occurred in Sind and Punjab, and where do these thefts take place? The answer is obvious: wherever there is wealth, there the thieves go. They do not discriminate between Sindis and Punjabis. The problem in reality is one of law and order. You have mentioned Sind; thieves and bandits go there from other provinces to commit their criminal acts.

[Question] Press and police reports indicate that individuals trained by the Al Zulfiqar organization are responsible for crime in Sind and that most of them have been trained in Kabul.

[Answer] I would like to make it clear that the common impression about Al Zulfiqar's activities in Sind is false. The Al Zulfiqar organization does not exist in Sind; the people of Sind have rejected it. There are other political parties in Sind; if the People's Party had had any merit, it would not have failed. A political party that has full political backing and still cannot hold equitable and impartial elections under a constitution passed by itself, that subjects the people to indignity, and kills and plunders--how can such a party presume to talk of democracy? The nation has not forgotten the fire and bloodbath in Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, on 23 March 1973. The People's Party should be ashamed to talk of democracy. Of course, if this party wants to regain power through force and hooliganism, that is another matter. The People's Party lost the support of the workers, peasants, students and people of Pakistan during its term of office. It should not try its luck here again.

[Question] Recently, a religious leader, Dr Israr Ahmad, made the dangerous revelation that a movement has started in Sind for a indudesh similar to Bangladesh. Can you comment on this?

[Answer] Dr Israr Ahmad is worthy of respect and is my colleague on the Advisory Council. I have read his speeches, but I find no substance to his fears. The Sindi Muslim is Pakistan's oldest Muslim inhabitant. Pathans and the inhabitants of other provinces accepted Islam after the Sindis did. No one should think that the Sindis will become Hindus or, God forbid, turn away from Islam. The Sindis have been Muslims since the early years. Dr Israr Ahmad should not fear any danger.

[Question] President Ziaul Haq has announced that he will reshuffle the cabinet. Will you remain defense minister or will you be given another post?

[Answer] I do not know anything regarding this matter. I have not met President Zia since 4 December. Participation in the cabinet or change of portfolio depends on the president's decision. He is the chief executive and will pick his own team. He will select whomever he considers suitable. As for myself, I will continue to serve the country and the people whether I am in the cabinet or not.

About the Muslim League

Expressing his views on political parties, Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur mentioned the Muslim League in particular and said, "I often tell my friend Nawabzada Abdul Ghaffur Khan Hoti that after establishing Pakistan on 14 August 1947, the Muslim League became inactive. Muslim League members thought that they had accomplished their mission, and this was a mistake on their part. The Muslim League's activity should in reality have started with the creation of Pakistan. But after attaining victory, the Muslim League did not continue its efforts, with regrettable results. The parties in opposition to the Muslim League, which were against the British and opposed to the creation of Pakistan, did recognize it after its creation. These parties also ceased their political activity, which proved detrimental to the country." Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur said that in India, on the contrary, the Congress Party continued its political role with great effective-

A Hundred Days Belong to the Thief....

During his interview with HURMAT, Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur referred to Israel's intentions toward Pakistan's atomic program and said, "Pakistan considers all its installations vital and has made arrangements for their protection." He said, "If Israel should make any move, it will be countered." In this connection, he recounted a Sindi proverb: "There is a saying in Sindi that 29 days belong to the thief, but 1 day belongs to the saint. Israel has been carrying on its aggressive activities, but if it should make any moves against Pakistan, then we will have to play the part of saint and bring the thief to justice and retribution."

General Zia Is Not a Viceroy

Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur referred to the activity of political parties in the country and said, "If these parties want any change, they should discuss it with the president of Pakistan, Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He is not a foreign ruler nor is he the viceroy. Political parties should present their program to the president."

Dr Israr Ahmad and "Bibi Desh"

Commenting on Dr Israr Ahmad's statement that a movement to create a Sindudesh similar to Bangladesh was afoot in Sind, Mr Ali Ahmad Talpur said, "Dr Israr Ahmad's fears are unjustified. Of course, the women of Pakistan may declare the creation of Bibi Desh [Country of Women] as a protest against Dr Israr Ahmad's attitude."

9863

CSO: 4656/122

ACQUISITION OF F-16's HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR NEW RESOLVE

Karachi JANG in Urdu 17 Jan 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Need for a New Resolve"]

[Text] The first consignment of three F-16s arrived in Pakistan the other day. Wing Commander Shahid Jawaid headed the pilots that brought these planes to Pakistan. The chief of the Pakistani Air Force being away on an official visit abroad, these planes were welcomed by Acting Chief Air Marshal Abdur Rashid Shaikh. Six pilots and technical experts of the Pakistani Air Force completed the training course in the United States for using these planes. The training course for using F-16 planes generally lasts 3 and 1/2 years. But the Pakistani pilots and technical experts because of their great excellence, completed their training in less than 1 year. These planes conform to the F-16's being used by the U.S. Air Force. A further consignment of three planes is due to arrive in Pakistan in the next few days. Last night when Pakistani TV announced the arrival of these planes and showed them landing at the Pakistani Air Force base, the overjoyed people shouted slogans of God is Great and Long Live Pakistan and exchanged greetings with one another.

There is no precedent in Pakistan's history to the serious threat facing the country from the northwest. Though our big neighbor to the east is comparatively quiet because of continuous offers of friendship, cooperation and nonaggression, it is not correct to think that it has become a sincere friend. While we were trying to acquire these F-16 planes, for example, it put up a very stiff resistance. This in itself is a clear indication that our neighbor would be satisfied to see Pakistan left all alone, by itself, emptyhanded with nothing, but it is not prepared to put up with a self-sufficient and strong Pakistan, firmly established as a military power. From the recent actions and tone of the Babrak Karmal administration and its patron superpower, it is evident that Pakistan's point of view is now unwelcome in that quarter. At the same time, there is apprehension about the possibility of direct aggression against Pakistan and the fact that subversive forces within Pakistan are active. Politicians, however, are united in their demand for the restoration of democracy, but they are not prepared to pursue a peaceful line of action to achieve that goal. The differences among the politicians is one of the reasons for the chaotic conditions prevailing among the people.

The presence of chaotic and unstable conditions inside the country in no way be said to be a good omen for the development and consolidation of the country and the nation. Side by side with this, if you look at the external dangers facing the country then the situation becomes still more serious. Under such circumstances, the slogans of joy expressed by the people are only appropriate. But it is essential that the politicians and those in power get together and draw up a line of action for the integrity of the nation and stability of the country. The acquisition of F-16 planes is a cause for joy but at the same time it is a challenge for the forces hostile to Pakistan. Adversaries of Islam and Pakistan who are active in all the great capitals of the world will not take it quietly. Henceforth, they will start new mischief and conspire against Pakistan with greater vigor than ever before and, using new tactics, will try to bring Pakistan into disrepute. Therefore, the nation will have to be on the alert and watchful. The nation, government and politicians are all responsible for dealing with the coming dangers. The government's responsibility lies in restoring democracy in the country so as to include the people fully in the task of developing the country and achieving stability. It is the duty of the politicians to see that before and after the restoration of democracy in the country they adopt a positive attitude and at the same time refrain from such acts and statements that are liable to create disruption and restlessness among the people. Finally, it is the responsibility of the people to act in accordance with the teachings of Islam and make Pakistan truly a cradle of the Islamic system. The fact that the team of Pakistani pilots and technical experts who went to the United States for training in the use of F-16 planes completed the training which usually lasts 3 and a 1/2 years in record time strengthens the belief that given the necessary preparation, this soil is very fertile. Our nation has endless capabilities and if its capabilities are organized on a positive and constructive basis then this nation can, even today, face every challenge, from the East as well as from the West. Acquiring F-16's was a simple demonstration of this nation's strong determination. If we were to strive in earnest then it will not be impossible to master the technology of building F-16 planes.

9815

CSO: 4006/81

DOWNFALL IN RATE OF SAVINGS DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text]

WHETHER the sixth five-year plan has an ambitious outlay of Rs 525 billion, as Dr Mahbubul Haq still wants, or a modest one as the conservatives among the top officials suggest, most of it will have to be financed through domestic savings and investment.

The Governor of the State Bank, Mr A.G.N. Kazi, says that "in the prevailing international economic situation the scope of getting increased economic aid is limited. Moreover, with increase in debt-service liability the net inflow of aid will be quite low."

The latest State Bank figures show that while total utilisation of long term loans and credit in 1981-82 was Rs 742 crore, the repayment was Rs 321 crore — over 43 per cent of the loans. And that gives a disquieting indication of the pattern of the aid to come. The country has to learn to stand on its feet rather than live by its wit increasingly, and abate its constant quest for financial crutches and foam cushions around the world to enable us to keep going in the unreal way we are.

Mr Kazi did not mention the possibilities of the home remittances of Pakistanis falling which touched the peak of Rs 30 billion last year. Official projections in Pakistan are that despite the sharp fall in oil prices and serious re-thinking ab-

out some of their too ambitious development plans in the Arab capitals, few among the estimated two million Pakistani workers abroad will be sent back, and those who are, will be promptly replaced by others from here. This is in sharp contrast to the thinking evident in Kuwait and other Gulf capitals, and the assessment in financial capitals around the world. So even if our officials are very optimistic, as usual, it is wise for the nation to be on guard and prepare for such eventualities. Let us not cry "wolf" only after they have come back in sizeable numbers and demand generous reciprocatory treatment for all the good dollars they have been sending us over the years.

One of lowest

Indisputably, we have one of the lowest domestic savings rate in the world. We may find queer satisfaction from the fact that the rate of savings in poor Pakistan is the same as in the ultra-rich U.S. So even when they are at extreme opposite ends of the economic spectrum both are in serious financial trouble with their investment stagnation, large budget deficits and balance of payment deficits.

But compared to the poor countries in the region, our rate of savings is hopelessly low. While India in 1981-82 had a Gross Domestic Savings rate of Rs 22.8 per cent and net domestic savings rate of 17.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Pro-

fact, Pakistan's domestic savings rate was between five to six per cent, as mentioned by Mr Kazi when he addressed a seminar this week. And this has been the case during the last 20 years, he lamented.

But the facts, even according to the State Bank documents, are to the contrary. The rate of domestic savings in relation to GDP has been coming down over the years. It came down from 8.3 per cent in 1976-77 to 7.8 in the following year, and in 1978-79 it hit the rock bottom of 4.5 per cent. Thereafter the figure vanished from State Bank reports available to the public.

Mention of domestic savings became a kind of taboo. While the growth and changes in the rate of domestic savings are fully documented in the lean Indian Economy Survey, they find no place at all in the bulkier Pakistan Economic Survey. And Mr Kazi himself mentioned the domestic savings rate after a long time.

The focus instead, has been on National Savings, which treat the entire home remittances of Pakistanis abroad as savings. But even there the figure has been falling. The State Bank report shows that it dropped to 11.5 per cent of GNP in 1981-82 from 12.1 per cent in the preceding year. Even if that figure is upped to 13 per cent, as Mr Kazi did at the seminar, the contrast between the 23 per cent savings of India and 13 per cent of Pakistan is disturbing.

As a result, while the level of investment in Pakistan has been as low as 12 to 18 per cent of the GDP during the last two decades, as Mr Kazi stated, currently and is only 16 per cent of the GDP, India has been able to achieve a gross domestic capital formation of 25.3 per cent and net domestic capital formation of 20.0 per cent.

The contrast between the low savings and investment rates of Pakistan and the high savings and investment rates of India becomes glaring in the light of the fact that the per capita income of Indians in 1981-82 was only Rs 1,749 while it was Rs 1,706 in Pakistan. Of course, the disparity has been pushed down by 30 per cent by the devaluation of the Pakistan rupee. And yet, in dollar terms the Pakistani per capita income is far above that of India—it is 25 per cent above, says Mr Kazi.

What is really amazing is that while as our economic progress increases, agricultural output rises steadily and industry records an impressive growth rate, the rate of savings goes down and down in Pakistan. But in India the savings rate has risen along with economic growth. The gross domestic savings rate rose from 16.3 per cent in 1970-71 in India to 22.8 per cent last year, and net domestic savings from 12 per cent to 17.5 per cent in the same period.

The U.S. parallel of a rich country having a low rate of savings does not hold good universally. While Japan has a savings rate of 30 per cent, the European states have a far higher rate of savings than the U.S.

It is, indeed, amazing that despite the soaring home remittances of Pakistanis our rate of savings has gone down, and our balance of payments last year recorded a staggering deficit of 1.6 billion dollars compared to one billion dollar in the previous year.

Balance of payments

Tragically, the remittances which peaked to Rs 30 billion last year, and showed the same upward trend in the first half of the current financial year ending December 31, have been used to bridge the large balance of payments gap at the one end, and then let free to aggravate inflation through continual conspicuous consumption at the other end. Hence official studies show that while 63 per cent of the remittances are used for current consumption, and 23 per cent spent on houses and real estate, only 14 per cent were invested, and out of that institutional investment was only 1.5 per cent evidently the great gain to the country, and last year, one hitherto, has been squandered to the detriment of the poorer sections of the people here with their meagre or modest earnings, who got swamped by the rising flood of inflation in the country.

Striking, indeed, is the fact that while monetary assets or money supply in the country shot up from Rs 51 billion in June 1977 to Rs 102 billion in October 1981, and rose further to Rs 122.3 billion by September last year, the rate of savings has gone down. More and more money has meant less and less savings.

How is that when we are proud of our annual growth rate of over six per cent during the last five years, the domestic savings rate has slipped from 8 per cent of GDP to 4.5 per cent, and is now stated to be between five and six per cent?

Can it be that our growth rate is somewhat exaggerated? particularly in the service sector? Is the service sector in the GNP as large as 43.7 per cent, and is the growth rate as high as mentioned? Only in the rich industrial states does the service sector almost equal the agricultural and industrial sector outputs, and not in poor developing countries like ours. In India, for example, while the commodity producing sectors have a share of 63 per cent of the GDP compared to Pakistan's 56.3 per cent, India's service sector forms 36.8 per cent of that compared to Pakistan's 43.7 per cent. Both the size and growth of the service sector, as stated in our growth figures, need careful scrutiny by independent agencies.

High prices

The domestic savings rate in Pakistan is low despite the higher average income because of high prices. Even Dr Mahbubul Haq has admitted that the purchasing power of the rupee has gone down by 75 per cent within 10 years. That is what the official indices of the cost of living also show.

Constantly pushing up the prices is the rising taxation and tax-like charges. Taxation in Pakistan may be below 20 per cent of the GNP, but the fact is that while about 65 to 70 people are involved in subsistence production, the other 30 per cent in the urban areas who could save a good deal in normal economic conditions have been squeezed by federal, provincial and local taxes at the one end and by higher prices at the other.

The situation becomes far more critical for the middle income groups and wage earners when there is a strong social compulsion to live it up and have costly ceremonies, ritual and rites. If some officials say it is because we are heirs of the Moghul Empire, others attribute it to the strong feudal hold on our lives. And to add to that, our commercial TV and radio are driving us towards higher consumption with a lot of song and dance. No wonder the savings have flown away and we are residually poorer for getting richer.

KASURI'S PLEA TO STUDENTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, March 4: Mian Mahmud Ali Kasuri, Vice-President of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqal, appealed to the elders of the Jamaat-i-Islami and other organisations to try to resolve the issue of students' unrest in the Punjab University.

In a Press statement issued here today, Mian Mahmud Ali Kasuri said, he had personally lodged a protest with Mian Tufail Mohammad, Amir Jamaat-i-Islami. He said it appeared that the students had become totally unmindful of their obligations to the society.

Referring to the repeated incidents of manhandling, such as the one connected with a University teacher, Mr Omar Asghar Khan and also concerning girls, Mian Kasuri observed, these events were a

manifestation of the grave moral and intellectual delinquency in the whole system of education. According to him the institution of the Punjab University had been reduced to the level of a battleground and people who opposed the Jamaat had to pay for it. The University authorities were too soft because when a section of the students was threatened by another section, the Vice-Chancellor advised the victims to refrain from attending classes because their protection could not be assured by the authorities.

In the end, he expected that all organisations of the students including Jamaat-i-Islami would attend to this matter with earnestness.

CNO: 4600/413

MINISTER ON STEPS TO EMPLOY MORE WOMEN

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 83 p 3

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, March 4: The Minister (Shoora) was informed on Thursday that a number of steps have been taken for employment and full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

This information was given by Raja Zafarul Haq, Minister for Information and Broadcasting during the "Question Hour".

To a question from Agha Sadrudin Durrani, he said the Women's Division was making concerted efforts to create employment opportunities for women in Government and non-Government organisations.

Giving the details of the steps taken in this connection, the Information Minister said the President has directed the ministries and divisions to give due representation to the qualified women in making recruitment to various posts.

Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq further said the Women's Division helped women to find suitable employment against posts advertised by various Federal and provincial agencies.

He said the Division received 20 applications from women for emp-

loyment during the last two years. On their recommendations six women have got employment in different departments while the rest of applications were pending till creation of suitable posts, he added.

He said women training programmes in literacy, vocational training, agriculture extension programme, sericulture, poultry raising, carpet making, hosiery, knitting, readymade garments, shorthand and typing, book-keeping, accountancy, repair of electrical appliances, have been launched throughout the country.

Six polytechnic institutes for women, at Karachi, Sukkur, Multan, Faisalabad, Islamabad and Peshawar have been set up, he added.

The Information Minister said that women's division, in co-ordination with the provincial Government, was organising women's grass-root seminars throughout the country to help form committees in solving multifarious problems of local women. The first of such seminar was held at Sujawal in Thatta division on Feb. 7, 1983, he added.

WALI CRITICIZES EXPENDITURE ON SHOORA

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

PESHAWAR, March 4: Khan Abdul Wali Khan has warned that whenever a civilian government was formed in the country it would recover each and every paisa being spent on the present members of the Majlis Shoora who, he stressed, were deftailing the world in a way as if they were the actual representatives of the people.

Addressing a meeting at Pabbi, near Peshawar on Thursday Wali Khan deplored what he called the usurpation of rights of the people, such as freedoms of speech and assembly and freedom to elect their

representatives, by the present government.

Such rights, he said, were given to the people when they were slaves under the British colonial rule, but were being usurped now when they constituted a free nation.

Wali Khan, together with his wife Nasim Wali, was placed under house arrest on Wednesday. But after he threatened to defy the orders and proceed to Pabbi to address the meeting the Government withdrew the orders.

1584 2800/410

COUNTRY'S STRIDE IN SCIENCE LAUDED

REUTERS (AWN) In English 5 Mar 83 p 12

[Text]

LAHORE, March 4. The Director-General, UNESCO, Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, said here on Friday that Pakistan had made appreciable progress in the education of science and technology during the last 10 years. He was talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport on arrival from Karachi on a two-day visit to the Punjab metropolis.

Accompanied by Madame Amadou, the UNESCO chief was received by the Punjab Minister Malik Allah Yar Khan and other senior officials. The Federal Minister for Sports, Culture and Tourism, Mr Niaz Mohammad Arbab, also accompanied him.

Mr Amadou said he had been very pleased to note that the Pakistan Government was attaching great importance to the teaching of science. He said that ever since the establishment of the Islamabad university, UNESCO has been co-operating with that in this field. He said that he first visited Pakistan in 1971 and since then, a number of steps had been taken by Pakistan to improve and extend the education of science and technology.

The UNESCO Director General said that UNESCO had been co-operating with Pakistan in various fields of competence and he hoped that his co-operation would be further strengthened following his visit. He said that Pakistan had to its credit a number of achievements in the UNESCO members.

Mr Amadou said that he had visited the Afghan refugee camps and particularly the tent schools for the Afghan children in Peshawar and he had been deeply struck by the manner in which these had been organised. It was true, he said, that the refugees were not living in their own country, but they had been received in Pakistan with a great fraternal spirit and the conditions in which they were living here were similar to their own country because of the human relationship which prevailed in these camps, he added.

He said UNESCO would certainly provide some kind of assistance for the schools for the refugee children. —APP

AWN: 0000000000

PLANNING SYSTEM CRITICIZED

Karachi: AIN In En 1481/ 5 Mar 83 p 12

(Text) LAHORE, March 4: The National planning system in vogue has become totally obsolete, which has failed to deliver goods to the masses in terms of increase in per capita income.

These observations were made by the speakers at a seminar on "Self-Reliant Economy of Pakistan", organised by the Group at 83. The seminar was presided over by Mr Shahbaz Sharif and the speakers included Prof. Rashid Shaikh, Salim Ali, Mr Masood Hasan, Mr Shahid Kardan and Mr M. I. Qureshi.

There was a consensus of opinion among the speakers that the economic growth in Pakistan had not been harmonised with social justice and an equitable distribution of wealth. Moreover, huge allocations of funds they added, had been made in non-productive sectors and the areas for the development of self-reliant economy had been ignored, which included education, public health projects etc.

On the question of pertaining to the role of multinational and transnational corporations, the speaker was of the opinion that the policy makers had also failed to exercise social control and, as such, the nation was being de-

prived of huge amounts of foreign exchange, which these corporations repatriate every year after showing losses in the account books.

The failure of the planners was also brought into notice with regard to mobilising the funds to develop human resource.

Strategy

The strategy of acquiring loans from foreign agencies, spend thriftness on the non-developmental sectors and neglecting the development of the human minds were the key factors which had taken the country towards backwardness rather than towards a needed transformation of the society into an independent economic order.

Referring to the growth rate of GNP the speakers tried to prove the case by quoting facts and figures, saying that the rate of economic growth over the years had touched a figure of only six per cent, while the population had been rising at the rate of three per cent. The ratio of imports had increased to 15 per cent, saving only 13 per cent of the total GNP.

Foreign debts

It was mentioned that at present Pakistan was indebted to foreign

countries to the tune of US dollars ten billion and had to pay debt servicing charges to the tune of over one billion US dollars every year. Thirty per cent of our total export earnings were being utilised in repayments of foreign loans, while the import bill had gone up to five billion a year.

The literacy rate had only been 23 per cent while over ten million people were living below the poverty level and over 55 million of the 85 million people were deprived of the pure drinking water.

Education system

Similarly, the speakers observed, that corruption in the public service was rampant and austerity was not being observed even by the Government itself, together with the class of landlords, big tycoons, industrialists and the people holding authority at various levels of administration.

Under the existing system of education, as was being planned by the policy makers the nation was producing only about 23 per cent literates, and not the educated people to become economically independent and able to transform the society into a technologically-oriented one.

CORPORATE TAX STRUCTURE UNDER REVIEW

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 14

[Excerpt]

Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Chairman, Central Board of Revenue, has said that the Government is reviewing the existing structure of corporate taxes and concessions, and will make some announcements at the time of next Federal Budget.

Addressing the Board of Directors of Karachi Stock Exchange on Tuesday, he said that "we always looked forward to the proposals and suggestions put forward by both Karachi and Lahore Stock Exchanges because they are pragmatic and realistic."

Referring to the handsome income tax collection of about 8.5 billion during last fiscal year the CBR Chairman said it was possible due to cooperation of tax payers, who filed correct returns under self-assessment scheme.

In the point raised in the welcome address about the doing away with five per cent surcharge

on corporate profit, he asked the Stock Exchange to submit a detailed report in this regard.

Capital gains tax

As for extending the periods of exemptions of capital gains from tax and tax holiday period he informed the Stock Exchange members that the Government was at the moment reviewing the positions of these concessions, and would make some announcements in the next budget.

To the plea to raise the rate of tax rebate for the companies listed on the Stock Exchanges, Mr. Fazlur Rahman suggested to prepare a detailed report which the Government would consider along with its possible repercussions and implications in other sectors. In the light of the report, he added, Government would be in a position to take any decision.

PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SECTOR CRITICIZED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Mar 83 p 2

[Cont.]

On the face of it, the report about the performance of the public sector is quite impressive and leads one to believe and, to some extent rightly too, that its contribution to the national economy has been more valuable than that of the private sector. We have said that it is correct to some extent because the size of the public sector over the years did not shrink as much as was expected soon after the present regime took over in 1977. With the exception of the agrarian industries and stray units here and there which have been denationalised, almost all the taken-over industrial and commercial institutions have been retained in the public sector. A number of such units have been enjoying monopoly position while others have to face nominal competition from the private sector. All said and done, we would not hesitate to appreciate the improvement in public sector performance

during the year passed by and about which a detailed report has been issued by the Government.

The report reveals that during 1981-82, production index of the state industry rose to 113 points from 102 in the previous year. At the same time, sales rose from Rs. 15,659 million in 1980-81 to Rs. 18,885 million in 1981-82. The pre-tax profit was up from Rs 747 million to Rs 1,097 million and taxes and duties paid by these enterprises rose from Rs 3,520 million to Rs 3,662 million. These figures are really impressive and for such performance the public sector deserves our appreciation. What we appreciate most is the revelations made about the increase in sales which are bifurcated in terms of volume and value both. This will enable one to estimate the impact of inflation on the overall increase in the value of sale. We are of the firm belief that their performance

would have been much better if they were run purely as commercial and industrial concerns. They need to be deregulated and authority has got to be transferred to the place where activity takes place.

There are units in the public sector which have been heavily subsidised to carry on their activities. To name a few, these include Javedan Cement, Pakistan Engineering Company and several others. Improvement in performance at this cost cannot be termed real. There has got to be a genuine mechanism for accountability. The best method of accountability in the economic field is fair and free competition. The question is: Can these units stand this criterion of accountability? As a matter of fact, these units do not have that

in-built vitality to stand fair and free competition. Let both sectors work in identical conditions and then the performance should be judged.

As the custodians of public funds, all public sector commercial and industrial concerns are obliged to keep the public posted about their activities. The units which are hundred per cent owned by the Government and whose shares are not quoted on the stock market, offer no performance reports to the public. These are kept as the most guarded secret. We would urge the Government to give up such practices and compel these units to make their reports public so that their performance could also be judged critically. If for some genuine reasons, their details are kept secret in the

larger national interests, then at least the Majlis-e-Shura may be taken into confidence. What we insist is that no unit should go scot free on any ground and be left out of accountability. This is said here in the larger national interest. Appreciative though we are of the achievements of this sector, we sincerely feel that there is wide room for improving it further. Besides, we agree that its performance cannot be judged alone by the profits it earns, but also by their social impact. Yet the basic consideration should be that the public sector should not be allowed to prosper at the cost of the people. The approach of public sector enterprises has got to be business like. And we see no contradiction between the two commercial approach and public good.

INEQUALITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES, BENEFITS ANALYZED

FRONTIER ECONOMIC & BUSINESS REVIEW in English 27 Mar 83 p 111

[ARTICLE by A. Karim (Admin)]

[Text]

ECONOMIC growth and social justice cannot be segregated from one another. They are so interlinked that any variation in their smooth functioning could breed discontent, uncertainty, dejection and rejection of the system and the accompanying evils.

It should be borne in mind that inequitable distribution of wealth and power has sparked off many revolutions, such as in China. The dismemberment of our country in 1971 was a conclusive evidence of disparity, both economic and social, between the two wings. History provides us with food for thought and it is wise to learn from experiences and errors of the past.

Pakistan is a developing country with low per capita income. Despite progress in various sectors, the largest sector of the economy, that is, agriculture, is still far behind world standards in terms of yield and mechanisation.

Misplanning

In his book, "Strategy of Economic Planning", Dr. Mahbubul Haq had observed that economic planners in the country had deviated from planning the major sector (agriculture) and had engaged themselves in employing the meagre available resources in "prestigious research projects"

like atomic energy and steel which are both "time and capital consuming".

It is because of this misplanning that the majority of our people — about 80 per cent — living in the rural areas have yet to enjoy the fruits of economic growth. Since social justice and economic growth go hand in hand, we find that unequal distribution of economic wealth and the accompanying "power" which wealth bestows, have given birth to various social evils and malpractices.

Since its early days, Pakistan's economy has been controlled by few families. As a result, 80 per cent of business has been controlled by about 20 per cent of the population. These families were controlling banks, insurance business, shipping, industries, etc. In this way, the rich became richer and the poor became poorer.

During the period of Ayub Khan the situation reached the peak when almost every month new industries were set up by a small group of persons having large resources. While the period was described as the golden era of industrialisation, no equal concern was shown to ensure social justice.

In the industrial sector itself, the development was lopsided. Industries were set up largely in developed areas like Karachi, Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, etc., while less developed areas like Baluchistan, NWFP, etc., were neglected. Then, the bulk of rural

population was deprived of the opportunity for employment, as no industries were set up in the rural areas. This added to the inequities.

This was the situation in the industrial sector. In the agricultural sector, big landlords who possessed large holdings hardly allowed a reasonable share of agricultural production to pass on to the small farmers and landless farm workers, who remained poor and often did not have enough money to buy clothing, medicines, etc.

This state of affairs continued for more than 23 years. In 1971 the then government nationalised basic industries, insurance, banks, shipping companies, etc., in order to bring about social justice. But as a result of these measures, the private sector stopped investment in the economy. The establishment of industries was halted and, according to reports, resourceful people started shifting their capital to foreign countries.

Farming sector

Land reforms were also introduced then, under which poor farmers were given the land to cultivate. This was also a step further towards social justice. The economic condition of the peasants improved as a result of land reforms.

When the present government took over, a step further was taken towards social justice because the present government is determined to establish a truly Islamic system based on social justice. Obviously, this cannot be achieved in a day. The task though difficult is not impossible. It can be made possible with the sincere efforts of all concerned, the government and the people.

Fiscal policy is one of the strong and effective instruments for ensuring equitable distribution of resources, leading to social justice. To achieve this, taxation has to be steeply progressive. Direct and indirect taxes should be levied in a way that they prevent the concentration of economic power in the hands of few.

With the prime objective before the present government being social justice, increasing investment will have to be made in the public sector if the private sector does not respond effectively.

Proceeds of taxation also would have to be transferred to less developed areas for provision of roads, medical facilities, education, transportation facilities, etc., and for the uplift of poor people.

Public expenditure has to be used for obtaining the aims of social justice. Increase in public expenditure for the establishment of an industrial unit could no doubt lead to an increase in its output. But it will have also to be seen if it results in equitable distribution of resources.

Similarly, public expenditure made on development projects, like the Tarbela Dam, for example, which will contribute directly to increased supply of water and power will be more conducive to bringing social justice than many non-development expenditures.

In conclusion, it needs to be said that the recently introduced Zakat and Ushr systems are expected to help broaden the base for socio-economic justice. It is hoped that the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the labour policy to be announced, will further accelerate the process.

EFFECTS OF RUPEE DELINKING ON FARMERS DISCUSSED

Karachi ECONOMIC & BUSINESS REVIEW in English 27 Mar 83 pp I, IV

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text]

A STRONG lobby of farmers is reported to have mounted a campaign to get the government to pass on the benefit of rupee devaluation to those producing exportable agricultural surpluses.

This lobby argues that since the delinking early last year, the Cotton Export Corporation (CEC) and the Rice Export Corporation (REC) were making windfall gains per export unit in terms of rupee which has depreciated against the dollar. This gain, it insists, should have been passed on to the producers.

But the REC and CEC which had been facing difficulties in meeting their export targets, first, due to an unrealistic exchange value of the rupee when it was linked to a rising dollar and, then, because of the glut in the world markets for rice and cotton, do not seem to be inclined to favour the idea of giving even a sympathetic hearing to the farmers on this subject.

Unimaginative

On the other hand, the government, which had to provide massive budgetary support to CEC and REC during the past two years, appears to find it convenient to ignore the pleas of cotton and rice growers.

The respective stands of the three contending parties to the is-

sue appear to be rooted in logic. But neutral observers feel that the tendency on the part of the government to twist every new economic trend, international or national, positive or negative, in such a manner as to grab every little penny in sight and deny the public at large even a degree of relief not only exposes its ability to manage the country's economy on sound footing but also makes it appear more like an unimaginative accountant rather than a government fully aware of its socio-economic responsibilities.

According to these observers the decision of the government not to pass on the benefit of reduction in world oil prices to the public too was untenable. They do not dispute the argument that international oil prices could go up again but fear that the government would push up the domestic oil prices no sooner than it perceived a rising trend in world oil prices notwithstanding the fact these were moved upward when there was a downward trend in the international oil market.

They also do not attach any credence to the official explanation

that the savings accruing from the fall in the country's oil bill would be utilised in financing the domestic energy development programme. They said in view of the past experience, it would be unrealistic to take this explanation on its face value.

In the opinion of these observers, the savings accruing from fall in oil prices and the gains from the hike in the unit export prices of agricultural surpluses would be used by the government to cover its expanding budget deficits which have already overshot the estimated target for the current year even before the fiscal year was half way through.

Policy objectives

Recalling the objectives of agricultural pricing policy, they said the government instituted the mechanism of support procurement prices for agricultural commodities with the ostensible purpose of

- 1) striking an economic balance between competing crops,
- 2) ensuring adequate production of exportable surpluses of those crops which promise good foreign exchange returns,
- 3) encouraging production of crops which have big import substitution potential,
- 4) ensuring stable supplies of items of everyday consumption and
- 5) striking a balance in the economies of agricultural sector.

They said by not passing on to the producer the benefit of gains in terms of rupees in unit export prices of agricultural surpluses, the government is actually violating one very important objective of policy of support/procurement prices.

The increased income, if passed on to producers, would serve to encourage the producers to produce more while its denial would only cause heartburning among the farmers whose margin of profit on their investment according to rough estimate, is not more than 15 percent and that too only in the case of those using high technologies. Those who are using medium technologies and traditional methods of farming are said to be making not more than 5 to 10 percent of profits.

Besides, according to some farm experts, with the middleman still operating despite the claims to the contrary, most of the farmers are still seen to be sharing their earnings with a third party.

Wheat vs oilseeds

Turning to the question of wheat, in which the country has become more than self-sufficient, these experts say that time has now come when a reappraisal of all the related factors should be made. The increase in wheat production has resulted in the decrease of oilseeds production (rapeseed and mustard) because of the competing nature of the two crops, they pointed out.

Consequently they said, imports of edible oil over the last five years had been increasing at an alarming rate. In 1977-78 the country imported edible oil worth 156.9 million dollars (267.8 million kgs) and by 1981-82 the imports had shot up to 334.3 million dollars (627.5 million kgs). In the opinion of these experts, this trend should not be allowed to continue because in the long run it would put to nought all the gains that might accrue from attaining self-sufficiency in wheat.

These experts however, did not favour the idea that wheat procurement prices should be revised downward for the purpose of striking a balance in the competing crops because such a move would throw wheat cultivation into reverse gear. They said, instead, efforts should be made to improve per acre yield of wheat crop while expansion in its acreage should be discouraged.

These experts thought that the decline in the production of rapeseed and mustard could be halted by bringing them on the list of items being procured by the government as has been done in the case of onions and potatoes.

Farm experts said that the policy of support/procurement prices would yield the desired results only if it is operated on a sound basis at the production and marketing ends. They said this aspect assumed added importance with regard to items of government's procurement list.

Problems of Procurement

In their opinion, in the absence of an efficient organisation capable of lifting the "procurement" items quickly, having enough funds to pay to the farmers on the spot, storing the items properly, transporting them to various centres and then distributing them to outlets, the pricing policy had only added to the confusion already existing in the farm sector.

They said it was also illogical to fix support/procurement prices on the basis of information available to the policy-makers at present. In their opinion cost of production and rate of efficiency for the same crop differs from locality to locality, village to village, farm to farm and farmer to farmer. It is essential, they said, therefore to first calculate the mean cost and mean efficiency of each crop before fixing support/procurement prices.

These experts, however, appeared fairly impressed by the work being done by Pakistan Agricultural Prices Commission. They said, despite the handicaps the PAPC has been trying to keep itself abreast with the fast changing international pricing trends. They also commended the PAPC's efforts to collect on its own various information relating to the agricultural production in the country.

CSO: 4600/497

LARGE SCALE FARMING OPPOSED

EASTERN ECONOMIC & BUSINESS REVIEW in English 27 Mar 83 p 111

[Article by S.N. Hossain]

[Text]

THERE is a dichotomy in our approach to development. On the one hand, the Sixth Five-year Plan is being debated in terms of income distribution and distributive justice; on the other, measures are being taken which would lead to concentration of wealth.

In their anxiety to increase production in agricultural sector, government has already amended the 1972 land reforms for livestock farms. There are reports of allotment of 5,000 acres land each to various persons. Multinational corporations have also been reportedly approached to invest in agriculture.

It appears that the government is impressed by large farms of USA and other western countries which have recorded high increase in production with the help of tractors, combine harvesters, chemical fertilisers and pesticides. What is overlooked, however, is the fact that price support schemes, subsidies and tax exemptions have provided the necessary tools towards profitability of those farms.

In Pakistan, this impression is all the more strengthened by achievements of the green revolution which has been brought about by the introduction of high yielding seeds alongwith the use of tractors, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and

tubewells. And of course, to meet this high cost of farming, subsidies, price support schemes and tax exemptions have been introduced to make farming profitable. Agriculture is no more a lag industry.

Bureaucrats & Businessmen

In the pursuit of large farms, which suits the elite, nobody talks of achievements of small farms in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan and that small farms with intensive farming have high rate of production. Now that we have the green revolutionaries in the traditional landlords, retired civil and military officers and businessmen, the urgent need for land reforms which would benefit hordes of landless peasants, is being minimised. It is also said that it would lead to small holdings which would be inefficient. What we need is large farms with machinery, chemical inputs and subsidies, it is stressed. Of course machinery and some other inputs will have to be imported.

In this process, as it appears, it is conveniently forgotten that the economic resources of countries like USA and Canada are entirely different from those of Pakistan. US economy is characterised by scarcity of labour and abundance of capital while Pakistan has large rural population and suffers from acute scarcity of capital.

Here are some relevant statistics. About 70 per cent of population

depends on agriculture. Of the total labour force, 55 per cent are engaged in agriculture. There are four million farms, of which those having more than 10 hectares form 11 per cent and the remaining 89 per cent are small farms of upto about 10 hectares or 25 acres.

Families having small un-economic holdings own 30 per cent of agricultural land, middle zemindars 20 to 25 per cent and big landlords 35 to 45 per cent. But the bulk of land is actually cultivated by farm workers who do not own land, on traditional crop sharing basis. Family members of landless peasants and small holders live at starvation level.

It is, in fact, 20 to 25 per cent of total agricultural land which is properly tilled and produces reasonably good harvest. The remaining 70 to 75 per cent of agricultural land does not produce the necessary yield because of the problem of ownership of land. Now that the virtues of large farms and the virtues of small farms are being compared, the question arises, what would happen to the landless population if the landless population and the small holders.

Farming with the input of high yielding seeds, tubewells, chemical fertiliser, pesticides and tractors has generally benefited the medium and large land owners. Apart from growing income inequality, it is also leading to a tremendous increase in landless labour as owners of large farms tend to do away with farm workers and cultivate on their own.

To extend the profitability of the large farms, they are also buying adjoining land. In this process, small landowners are being dispossessed of their land. The extensive use of tractor is displacing manpower. According to a World Bank survey, a tractor displaces 40 per cent of labour.

Keeping these factors in view, we must adopt appropriate farm management and methods which can ensure effective use of the large population and rapidly increase the rate of production. We cannot allow the large rural population to be turned into landless labour to be exploited by large land owners or to join the army of unemployed and go to the cities for maximum utilisation of the economic resources which certainly includes its

population, instead of being disposed of their land they should be provided with land.

Workers per acre

It is entirely a wrong notion that small farms are inefficient. In fact they are more productive than large farms provided the tillers are owners of the land and are supplied with infrastructural facilities. It is the ownership that turns sand into gold. We have to adopt appropriate policies which would provide the small farmers with private assets like land and public assets like health, education, road and transport. In this context, along with land reforms institutional arrangements have to be made to make available necessary input for the small farms. The experience of Japan, Korea, Taiwan and even India, could be of benefit.

Japan and Taiwan have more agricultural workers per 100 acres than many developing countries. In 1969, the number of workers per 100 acres in Japan was 87, Taiwan 79, South Korea 79, while in Ceylon 49, Philippines 29, India 36. And yet the per acre yields of Japan are three to six times higher than the yields in Philippines and India.

The under-employment in agriculture in Pakistan is due mostly to the fact that we have failed to organise labour-intensive small farms and not because there are too many people on land. There are technological means to bring about this revolution among small farms, which are mainly chemical and biological. Machines and tools have to be used to assist human labour and not displace it.

Moreover, experience has shown that production per acre is generally higher on small farms than on large farms. The output per worker is, no doubt, higher on large farms but in labour-surplus economies the relevant measure is the productivity per unit of land. Since small farms need convenient access to inputs, marketing and credit a number of institutions have to be organised to meet the needs of a large number of small farms. Once they have access to modern system of farming, they can improve their production. In Indian Punjab, for example cooperatives have played a dominant role in the supply of production units and credit.

China's example

There is, no doubt, that the high yielding seeds have contributed to the increase in production in developing countries but they have their own drawbacks. They yield less protein, require heavy doses of water, chemical fertilisers and pesticides, which in turn, require subsidies and price support leading to increase in prices. These inputs require heavy investment which are beyond the means of small farms.

Although Pakistan has long association with China it is strange that it has not benefited from its experience. China has more than doubled its agricultural production by the intensification and improvement of traditional technique. It has employed green and organic manures and compost and has left it to farmers to improve their technique by better use of the traditional methods. In Pakistan, with the majority of farmers being poor, there is need for developing techniques which are less expensive and within the means of small farmers.

According to reports, multinational corporations have also been invited to invest in agriculture. In this context, some aspects of the operation of these corporation would be relevant. The large farms run by big corporation such as in USA may earn profit but they are not efficient beyond a certain point. Even their profitability, according to an American author, owes a great deal to expertise of tax accountants and attorneys. Further, their indiscriminate use of chemicals has led to ecological problems. There is already an alarm in USA at the huge drift of agricultural population and the reduction in number of farms since 1949 from 6.3 million to 2.9 million with one million of those disappearing since 1961.

In any development strategy high rates of economic growth are best achieved by full use of its resources. It means that intensive use should be made of scarce resources of the land and capital. This could be achieved by making capital and land expensive because of their scarcity and encourage the creation of job by allowing wages at a level appropriate to other factors of production. The greatest merit of increased agricultural production lies in involving the large majority of rural population and not to confine it to a small number of large scale farm operations.

BUMPER WHEAT CROP EXPECTED

KARACHI DAWN In English 5 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, March 4: The wheat crop has so far not been affected by any disease, it was officially learnt here on Thursday. able to the disease during continuous cloudy weather and excessive humidity for a long period

Wheat has been sown on a record area in the country, exceeding the targets fixed by the Government. A wheat expert said that now only sunshine is needed for the crop

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has not received reports of any disease from any province. Harvesting in the country will start from April 15

The crop in Lower Sind will be ready for harvesting after March 15, and the danger of yellow and brown rust is now over in those areas. The experts are optimistic about a record bumper wheat crop this year in view of the area under the crop, extensive use of quality seeds and increased use of fertilizer

Brown rust is the most dangerous disease which had destroyed the crop in 1978. They said that if weather remained favourable, the target which was fixed, will not only be achieved but may be exceeded

The wheat plant becomes vulnerable to the disease during continuous cloudy weather and excessive humidity for a long period. —APP.

000: 4600/413

PLAN TO BOOST FISH EXPORTS

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 12

[Text]

The Government has chalked out plans to increase fish exports to 200 million dollars a year in next few years time from the existing fish export earnings of 55 million dollars a year.

According to official sources, the fish harvesting from off-shore sources currently stands at about 201,000 tons which is considered well below the actual fish potential available.

The actual potential for fish catch has been roughly estimated at about 14 million tons which would need tremendous amount of investment to develop necessary facilities for increasing the catch.

The sources said that plans were in hand to develop the fish catch every year at the rate of ten per cent a year.

They said projects had already been taken up to renovate the

Karachi Fish Harbour and improve the off-shore facilities.

Similarly there were plans to set up two fish harbours — one at Korangi and the other at Pasni in Baluchistan with supporting infrastructure facilities and training centres for the fishermen.

The Government has already undertaken stock assessment surveys and training of the staff.

The sources said that the Government would also promote the joint venture efforts for proper and maximum exploitation of the marine resources but would prefer fishing trawlers under Pakistan flag.

Meanwhile, the plan to implement the aqua-culture project at cost of 14 million dollars for the development of inland fisheries has already been implemented. — PPI

CSO: 4600/501

6TH PLAN'S PROPOSED PAPER, PULP INVESTMENT DISCUSSED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by Babar Ayaz]

[Text]

The working group on paper and pulp industry for the Six Five-Year Plan has proposed an investment of Rs 4600 million during 1983-88 for creating new capacity and BMR of the existing mills.

It has proposed setting up of a newsprint mill with the installed annual capacity of 66,000 tons, two writing and printing paper mills with 33,000 tons capacity each and a kraft pulp mill of 30,000 tons capacity.

The group envisages investment of Rs. 1600 million including Rs. 950 million worth foreign exchange in the newsprint mill, Rs. 2400 million for the two writing and printing paper mills with 50 per cent foreign exchange component and Rs. 400 investment for the kraft pulp mill inclusive of Rs. 200 million foreign exchange.

For BMR of the paper and board mills the group has recommended an allocation of Rs. 200 million out of which Rs. 140 million would be the foreign exchange.

NEWSPRINT

The working group has attached top priority to the indigenous production of news print in the country which is at present nil. It has pointed out that about 35,000 tons of newsprint is consumed in the country and has projected demand to touch 62,000 tons by 1987-88. Newsprint import in 1981-82 cost Rs. 164 million.

They have maintained that the newsprint mill was not established in the country due to

lack of availability of proper raw material—long fibre wood pulp.

However, they have suggested that bagass, which has been an alternate raw material, should be the base for the industry.

The Punjab Industrial Development Board has already prepared a feasibility in this regard which has been submitted for approval to the concerned authorities.

WRITING PRINTING AND PACKAGING PAPER

The working group has projected that the annual demand for writing, printing and packaging paper will increase from 101,700 tons in 1981-82 to 157,826 tons by the end of Sixth Five-Year plan, as against the domestic production of 44,989 tons.

They have proposed installation of two new mills each with 30,000 tons capacity and allocation of funds for the expansion of capacity to the Charsadda Mills—12,000 tons.

The new mills should be asked the Group suggested, to base their projects on raw materials like rice straw and wheat straw.

They have also pointed out that despite the fact some six new paper mills during the last three years were sanctioned not a single project has made any progress.

At present the entire kraft pulp requirement of the country is being met through imports. The demand is expected to grow to 83,000 tons per annum by 1987-88 with the installation of new cement factories.

The group has suggested installation of 30,000 tons mill during the sixth plan based on pine resources of Manshera.

KARACHI-PESHAWAR ROAD PROJECT DESCRIBED

Karachi ECONOMIC & BUSINESS REVIEW in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by John Elliot]

[Text]

INTERNATIONAL BIDS are being invited by the Pakistan Government for the financing and construction of one of the world's largest road building projects to be undertaken this decade.

The project will cost an estimated \$650m-\$750m and involves building a second carriageway on the Peshawar to Karachi road, which runs for 1,540km throughout the length of the country, starting near the Khyber Pass and Afghan border in the north and finishing on the Arabian Sea in the south.

Bidders must be led by a local Pakistani company and also have to include international civil engineering contractors and financiers who will provide \$400m or more of the total cost as a long-term investment. They are being invited to submit bids consisting of a price for construction and detailed design work in one or three stages, together with a rate of interest for the \$400m and a period of up to 16 years for repayment. The Government would like to award the contract this summer.

International contractors believed to be involved in preparing bids include Pauling and Taylor Woodrow from the UK, Dillingham of the U.S., which is already working on Pakistan's Tarbela Dam, Johan Griggs of the U.S., Impreglio of Italy, and companies from other countries including France, Sweden, Korea and Brazil.

Keen interest

Interest in the contract is especially keen because the work will provide contractors with valuable experience in working on a major construction project in Pakistan, in readiness for the country's \$4.5bn Kalabagh Dam project which is expected to go to tender in 1987.

The financial terms offered may be affected by support provided by foreign countries for their own contractors although the British Government is not likely to provide any special financial backing because the project would not create many jobs in the UK.

The road, which follows the River Indus in the south, was first mooted ten years ago, but finance was not available. Pakistan also does not have the know-how or equipment to do much of the work on its own, although three stretches totalling 150 km are underway.

"The reasons for the slow progress are inadequate financing and inexperienced contractors in Pakistan," says Brigadier Khalid Amin, chairman of the National Highways Board. "Efforts are being made to create road building contractors in the country but it will take time. The basic weakness is in the management of large highway projects and the maintenance of the equipment. The present utilisation of road building equipment is barely 15 to 20 per cent of the optimum."

The project has not been regarded as a priority by interna-

tional donors of development aid who are concentrating their resources on energy, rural roads and agricultural projects in Pakistan. The government, however, is determined to press ahead and its decision to ask the private sector to finance the bulk of the cost fits in with President Zia-ul-Haq's basic policy of banning any new major public sector investment projects. The government is relying instead on the private sector to fund Pakistan's economic growth.

Determined effort

The idea of the proposed partnership between the government and international and Pakistani private sector interests has been greeted with scepticism in the country. But serious interest is being paid by the business community here and Mr Mabub Ul Haq, Planning Minister, says he is "thrilled by the response to a new conception in capital project financing."

Approaching 30 bids are expected to be submitted by the closing date of April 30 although many of these are not expected to be viable.

The government is insisting that local Pakistani companies take the lead in each bid and some of the country's long-established family business houses are showing an interest. A.G. Adamjee, part of the Adamjee family group, is preparing a bid including its own building company, Adamjee Construction, which was set up a year ago and is currently tendering for housing work in Iraq and hospital contracts worth \$500m in Pakistan.

Pakistanis interest

Mr A.G. Adamjee is having talks with contractors from Europe, the

U.S. and Japan. Two other large family groups — Habib, which includes Haidri Construction — and Dawood, which owns a contracting company called Descon, are also looking for funds in the U.S. and Middle East and talking to foreign contractors.



Gammon (Pakistan) is believed to be interested in the major bridge construction work which may be let as a separate contract. There are six major pre-stressed concrete bridges to be built to standardised designs. The government estimates these will cost \$46m, including \$18m for crossing the Indus at Kotri and \$8m for crossing the Jhelum.

Pakistan's Highway Board staff have prepared basic designs and specifications. Guidelines issued by the Board to bidders say that the government will levy a toll on the road raising \$66m a year. The proceeds would help finance construction after the fourth year of the six-year project.

The government's own investment, totalling about \$240m would start with U.S. \$4m in the first year and rise to \$45m in the fourth year and to \$68m in the sixth. A total of about \$80m in foreign exchange would be needed for the construction, including \$40m for plant, equipment and spares, between \$27m and \$54m for imported asphalt depending on local availability of supplies and \$10m for foreign staff.

The Highways Board intends to reimburse contractors for import duties on plant, and is asking the government for a tax holiday on foreign companies' profits. — Dawn-FT Service.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW: REPORT CLARIFIED--Islamabad, March 27--An official spokesman has termed the report carried by a section of the Press said to be based on a telephonic interview given by President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to a correspondent of the Urdu Service of Radio Denmark as not accurately reflecting the President's statement on the question of Jammu and Kashmir. According to the spokesman the President had explained Pakistan's recognised position on the Kashmir question which is well-known and Pakistan remains committed to the Simla agreement.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 83 p 16]

SILK ROUTE OPENING--Rawalpindi, March 29--The opening of the Silk Route Friendship Highway, linking Pakistan and China via the Khunjerab Pass for nationals of Pakistan and China from April 15, 1983, has aroused great interest among traders and residents of Northern areas living here. It may be mentioned here that the Friendship Highway would be open to travel on both sides for Pakistanis and Chinese nationals from April 15, 1983. It is felt here that the opening of the route to nationals of the two countries would promote flow of tourists from the two countries and also expand two-way land route trade between the two neighbouring countries.--UPP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 7]

TI LEADERS' RELEASE DEMANDED--Lahore, March 29--The Central Secretary, Finance, and a member of the National Working Committee of Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, Mian Khur Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, has demanded immediate release of the TI leaders who have been arrested for holding a meeting in connection with the Pakistan Day celebrations. In a statement issued to the Press here on Monday, Mian Mukhtar Bacha, President of TI, NWFP, and other leaders of the Tehrik were totally unwarranted and uncalled for. He said the people of this country should have a say in the affairs of the State. The only solution of the country's problems is to hold elections and transfer power to the elected representatives of the people, he added. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 8]

CALL TO DEFINE ISLAMIC PARTIES--Faisalabad, March 29--Mirza Mohammad Ismail, General Secretary of Nizamul Ulema-i-Pakistan (Faisalabad), has asked the Jamaat-i-Islami to define as to which parties are pro-Islamic and which of them are anti-Islamic. In a Press statement he said about six months back Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani of the defunct Jamiat Ulma-i-Pakistan had sent

invitations to all the political leaders in the country to join deliberations which was turned down by the Jamaat on the ground that they could negotiate only with 'Islamic' parties. Mirza Ismail has now asked Mian Tufail Mohammad, Prof Ghafoor Ahmad, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi Chaudhri Rehmat Elahi, Maulana Fateh Mohammad and Qazi Hussain Ahmad to clarify through the national Press as to which parties conform to their standard of being truly Islamic parties. He has also suggested the formulation of an Islamic Board consisting of such parties on the condition that no member of the Jamaat would be included in it. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 8]

LAWYERS' ARREST CONDEMNED--Larkana, March 29--The Larkana Bar Association unanimously condemned the arrest of the President and General Secretary of the Sialkot Bar Association and cases against lawyers who had attended the lawyers Convention at Sialkot in its urgent meeting held here in the Bar Room on March 26. The meeting also urged that the arrested office-bearers of Sialkot Bar Association shall be released and cases should be withdrawn. The Bar Association called for the restoration of 1973 Constitution and holding of the General Elections under the procedure adopted in 73 Constitution. It also demanded the release of all political detenus including Miss Benazir Bhutto, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, Mr Rasool Bakhsh Pailjo, prisoners of conscience and students. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 83 p 8]

PRE-PUBLICATION CHECK TO CONTINUE--In view of the order under MLR-49 dated February 23, 1983, issued by MLA Zone 'C,' all dailies, periodicals will continue to be submitted to the Information Department for pre-publication scrutiny till further orders.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Mar 83 p 11]

IMAMS ON ZAKAT BODIES--Mr Azizur Rahman Qureshi, President, Jamiat Mujahideen-i-Islam, yesterday suggested that the election of the chairmen of 'Zakat' committees be declared null and void and, instead, the 'Imams' of the mosques in various localities should be appointed to supervise the job of 'Zakat' distribution among the deserving persons. He told a Press conference that although the 'Zakat' system has been enforced purely as a religious measure it was being exploited for "political ends". /He alleged that various political parties had taken interest in the election of the chairmen of the 'Zakat' committees and, therefore, the chairmen mostly were favouring their respective supporters while distributing the 'Zakat' money./ [in boldface] Mr Aziz said that respectable citizens and officials may be taken on the 'Zakat' committees. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 83 p 8]

NWFP ACTING GOVERNOR--Peshawar, March 4: The Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. C. A. Majid, was sworn in as Acting NWFP Governor at simple ceremony at the Governor's House this morning. The oath was administered to him by the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court Mr Justice S. Usman Ali Shah. Lt Gen C. A. Majid will act as Provincial Governor in the absence of Governor Fazle Haq who had proceeded to Australia on a 15 day goodwill visit. The ceremony was attended by Provincial Ministers, Judges of the Peshawar High Court and senior military and civil officers.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 5 Mar 83 p 10]

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April 27, 1983